THE GLOBE AND MAIL

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Alberta set to allow some privately paid medical tests starting Friday

MATTHEW SCACE CALGARY

Starting Friday, Albertans will be able to decide for themselves whether they need a range of medical diagnostic tests, and they will be able to pay a private provider to do them.

If the tests turn up a new cancer diagnosis, the provincial government will reimburse the cost for the scan, Premier Danielle Smith said Monday. The move is another in Alberta's efforts to remake its health care system.

The new rules fall short of what Ms. Smith's government promised last year, but they nevertheless mark an expansion in Alberta's bid to encourage private health care operators to set up in the province.

Until the new policy comes into effect Friday, Alberta patients are limited in their ability to access MRIs, CT scans, ultrasounds and X-rays without a referral from a physician.

The regulations provide a more detailed look at how Ms. Smith's government intends to use legislation it passed earlier this year, paving the way for residents to receive reimbursements for self-referred tests.

"This new approach complements and strengthens Alberta's public health care system. It won't replace it," Ms. Smith said at a Monday news conference.

"Medically necessary care will remain prioritized and publicly funded as it always has."

TESTS, A15

SPORTS

Gymnasts Lia-Monica Fontaine, top left, Félix Dolci, top right, and Jordan Carroll, above left, all won gold medals in their events on Monday, with hammer thrower Ethan Katzberg, above right, later adding a fourth to the day's tally.
TOP, ABOVE LEFT: LINTAO ZHANG/GETTY IMAGES; TOP RIGHT: KIN CHEUNG/AP; ABOVE RIGHT: BEN STANSALL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

RACKING 'EM UP

Canada captures three golds in gymnastics, one in hammer throw in banner day at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow B14

Police probe second attack in months at Toronto's U.S. consulate

MATTHEW FRANK

A gunman shot at the United States consulate in Toronto early Monday and led police on a high-speed chase through the city's downtown, four months after a similar shooting at the same location, which investigators linked to an alleged guns-for-hire network.

Deputy Chief Frank Barredo of the Toronto Police Service said investigators were looking into whether there was any connection between the two consulate attacks or a separate shooting on the weekend at a Jewish-owned bakery elsewhere in the city. But he cautioned that the probe was in its early stages.

Police said that an officer stationed at the U.S. consulate as part of increased security after the shooting in March heard a firearm being discharged just before 5 a.m.

There were no reported injuries.

Deputy Chief Barredo told a news conference that the officer saw a white Honda Accord sedan with no licence plate flee the scene. He said the officer alerted a nearby squad car, which pursued the vehicle at speeds of more than 140 kilometres an hour, but ended the chase because of safety protocols.

Police did not yet have any suspects, he said.

"We have made arrests in practically all of the other shootings, at great cost to the Toronto Police Service in one instance," Deputy Chief Barredo told reporters at the scene.

CONSULATE, A3

Online sex ads reveal routes used to traffic Indigenous women and girls across country

TEMUR DURRANI WINNIPEG

Human traffickers are exploiting the country's highways and airports, establishing corridors to move victims between major Canadian cities, shows new research on missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

Researchers mapped these routes by examining thousands of sex advertisements posted online over the past decade. The analysts identified ads specifically claiming to feature Indigenous women or girls, then monitored changes to the posted locations of the ads in order to track the movement of victims.

The data suggest that traffickers are frequently using Ontario as a starting point. The most commonly used corridor in Canada is between Toronto and Vancouver. It is followed by Edmonton to Fort McMurray, Alta.; Calgary to Edmonton; and Belleville, Ont., to Edmonton.

These are among the key findings in a new report by Thomson Reuters – titled Unseen, Unknown, and Unsolved: Disappearances and Trafficking of Indigenous Individuals in Canada & the United States – set to be released Tuesday.

Heather Panton, the senior adviser for social impact and human rights at Thomson Reuters, said the aim with this report is to make hidden patterns visible.

"We wanted to provide practical information that can help policy-makers, law enforcements, non-profits and community partners with ways to better detect, prevent and respond to this exploitation," she said in an interview.

The report, now in its second annual iteration, identified at least 38 active and unresolved disappearances of Indigenous women and girls across Canada from May, 2025, to March, 2026. As the researchers pored through a variety of sources to obtain that data – such as information from the Aboriginal Alert network, the RCMP and activist groups – they found that hot spots of disappearances have been emerging in the Greater Toronto Area and Prince George, B.C., and persist in communities in Manitoba and Alberta.

TRAFFICKING, A8

In Montreal, past kidney donors and recipients help put hesitant patients at ease

KRISTY KIRKUP
HEALTH REPORTER
MONTREAL

CARE BETWEEN THE LINES

Twelve years ago, in the face of serious kidney disease, Serge Pisapia was in need of a transplant and had spent years on peritoneal dialysis. Still, he hesitated to accept a right kidney from his younger sister Christine even though she had gone through several tests and was medically cleared to do so.

"Serge was a very reluctant recipient," Ms. Pisapia, 62, said in an interview. "He did not want my kidney."

Much has changed since then, including Mr. Pisapia's lease on life. In November, 2014, he accepted his sister's kidney and felt an immediate boost of energy when he woke up in the recovery room. Now, at 70, he takes several daily medications, and test results show he is doing well.

The two use this experience to inform their work as volunteers with the Transplant Ambassador Program in Montreal.

The program, run by a non-profit, was launched in Ontario in 2017 and expanded into Quebec last March. It connects patients with chronic kidney disease and their families with volunteers who themselves have gone through a transplant or donation.

The Transplant Ambassador Program is a first in Quebec – operating out of Montreal General Hospital – and draws lessons from long-standing efforts by its co-founder Susan McKenzie, who received a kidney from her sister-in-law in 2010 and became a transplant advocate.

The work of transplant ambassadors aims to address a care gap: They can offer valuable, first-hand knowledge about their experience, which health care providers do not have.

The siblings say most patients pause when they think about receiving a kidney from a family member. They often share how they fear a transplant could affect the health of someone they care about, contributing to feelings of guilt.

TRANSPLANTS, A15

WILDFIRES
Macron warns of long battle, pledges support as France races to contain massive blaze ■ A4

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PODCAST
Kate Helmore on why chicken is so expensive right now and when prices might level out
tgam.ca/TheDecibel

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MADE IN CANADA

ISABEL McLAUGHLIN'S GOLDMINE, KIRKLAND LAKE

ISABEL McLAUGHLIN, GOLDMINE, KIRKLAND LAKE, 1932, OIL ON CANVAS, 106.7 × 86.4 CM. PRESENTED IN MEMORY OF NORAH McCULLOUGH BY HER FAMILY AND FRIENDS, 1993. MACDONALD STEWART ART CENTRE COLLECTION AT THE ART GALLERY OF GUELPH

Throughout July, we are showcasing artworks from the Art Gallery of Guelph, one of Canada's premier cultural spaces. Spanning historical and contemporary art, AGG is home to more than 11,000 artworks and the largest sculpture park at a public art museum in Canada. The collection brings together diverse artistic voices from across Canada and beyond, from early acquisitions by Tom Thomson and members of the Group of Seven to contemporary works by First Nations, Métis and Inuit artists. artgalleryofguelph.ca

Isabel McLaughlin advanced Canadian modernism through paintings that balanced abstraction with close observation of landscape and industry. *Goldmine, Kirkland Lake* depicts the industrial structures of Northern Ontario's mining region using simplified forms, rhythmic geometry and carefully structured colour. Painted during a period of rapid development, the work reflects Ms. McLaughlin's interest in how modern industry transformed both the physical landscape and experiences of place in Canada.

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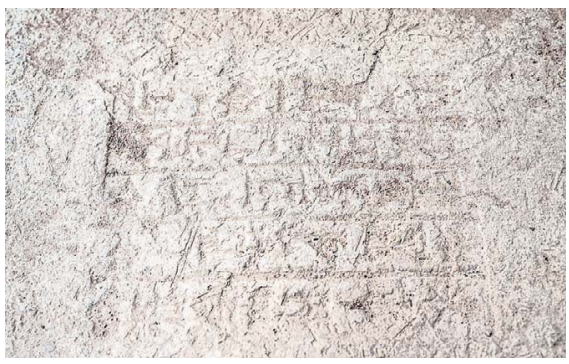
SANDRA E. MARTIN, STANDARDS EDITOR, standardseditor@globeandmail.com

Study documents a precipitous decline in the number of languages used globally

WILL DUNHAM WASHINGTON



Cuneiform writing is pictured in May at the Great Ziggurat temple in the ancient city of Ur, which is now in Iraq's southern Dhi Qar province.
ASSAD NIYAZI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Globally, people currently use roughly 7,500 languages, with English, Mandarin Chinese, Hindi, Spanish, Arabic and French the most common, counting native and non-native speakers. That is a lot of languages. But it is a far cry from the peak number historically.

Researchers used mathematical modelling and insights from anthropology, linguistics and demography to estimate the number of languages used globally dating back about 12,000 years to around the end of the last Ice Age, covering a chapter in time called the Holocene epoch. They identified a period spanning the first millennium BC and first millennium AD when humankind may have spoken tens of thousands of different languages.

The researchers also charted a major decline since this linguistic "golden age," due to language replacement driven by factors such as the expansion of large empires in antiquity and European colonialism in the past several centuries.

"Languages are meaningful to their communities. They carry knowledge, associations and memories," said Claire Bowern, a professor of linguistics and anthropology at Yale University in Connecticut and a leader of the study published in the journal Science.

"For scientists, languages carry huge amounts of information about the past, from where people lived to what they ate, and what they talked about. They also give us a window into the human mind," Prof. Bowern said.

Many language families arose and evolved, with written language eventually emerging, first in Mesopotamia – Sumerian written in cuneiform script – during the fourth millennium BC, and separately in places such as Egypt, China and Mesoamerica. The researchers estimated that the number topped out in a range from 30,000 to potentially more than 75,000 different languages used worldwide at any one time.

The researchers used data spanning 171 extant hunter-gatherer societies in Africa, South America and Southeast Asia to assess the size of ethnolinguistic groups – each representing a distinct language – near the beginning of the Holocene. They applied that to estimates of the human population at the time.

People were dispersed in small bands around the world, living as nomadic hunter-gatherers, with the onset of agriculture and the establishment of permanent settlements and more complex cultures yet to come. The researchers estimated that these scattered populations around 12,000 years ago spoke perhaps 4,500 to 6,200 languages.

As the global population gradually grew over subsequent millenniums and human society changed, the number of languages expanded.

Numerous major and minor languages have come and gone. Just a few examples include the Sumerian, Hittite, Akkadian and Etruscan languages, various languages used in ancient Egypt and ancient China, and some African click languages.

"The people who speak that language are killed or the people who speak that language shift – or are forced to shift – to another language," Prof. Bowern said.

Prof. Bowern also noted that old languages can evolve into new languages, as Latin, the tongue of ancient Rome, morphed into languages including French, Italian and Spanish in the centuries after the Western Roman Empire expired in 476 AD.

REUTERS

Police end ground search for Calgary boy

Parker, who is autistic and non-verbal, walked away from a day home nearly two weeks ago

BILL GRAVELAND CALGARY

Police continue to investigate the disappearance of an 11-year-old boy in Calgary. Parker disappeared just before noon on July 16 from his day home.
JEFF McINTOSH/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police ended the ground search for a Calgary boy on Monday, 12 days after the 11-year-old walked away from a daycare home.

Chief Katie McLellan said officers were refocusing their investigation into the disappearance of Parker.

Officers won't stop looking for the boy, she said, and will review evidence, follow tips and pursue new leads.

"The reality that Parker remains missing is difficult for all of us," Chief McLellan told reporters. "We're not giving up."

The boy is autistic and non-verbal. Police have not released his last name and said they don't suspect foul play.

Hundreds of officers and volunteers have searched for the boy – on the ground and by air, in bodies of water and by knocking on doors.

Residents were asked to check backyards, sheds, garages and under decks.

Information provided by Parker's family about his interests and behaviours helped guide some of the search. Officers played Parker's favourite Disney songs from patrol vehicles to try to draw him out.

The search was complicated by Parker's neurological condition.

Police cautioned that he could become scared if confronted by strangers. They asked members of the public not to approach the boy if they spotted him but to instead follow him and call police.

Parker disappeared just before noon on July 16 from his day home. Articles of clothing believed to be his were found nearby.

A short time later, he was captured on CCTV footage without a shirt and wearing black noise-cancelling headphones.

Early in the search, Parker's family issued a statement describing him as a "loved son, brother and friend."

"Our family is heartbroken by his disappearance. Since he went missing, our family has been living every parent's worst nightmare," they said. "Every hour that passes without knowing where he is or whether he is safe has been incredibly difficult for us."

The search galvanized the public but also exposed problems with public participation in the age of social media.

Police waded through hundreds of tips and said they were slowed down by altered images and videos created with artificial intelligence claiming to show Parker or provide information about his whereabouts.

One false report said the boy had been found dead, and a fraudulent GoFundMe page was also started.

The search also raised questions about how to alert the public when vulnerable children disappear. Amber Alerts are broadcast for children who are abducted and in serious danger.

In Parker's case, an Amber Alert was issued as a special exception on the second day of the search.

A group of mothers have started petitions to urge officials to launch similar broad outreach emergency messages for categories including neurodivergent children.

Inside the force's tactical operations centre, a series of coloured maps outline areas of the city that searchers covered again and again in the search for Parker.

"We are very frustrated," said Sergeant Rich Wall, adding officers spent more than 5,500 hours looking for the boy.

"Our areas of realistic search had been exhausted, but we are still carrying on. This is not the end," he said.

"This is a jigsaw puzzle and we're looking for the last little pieces to make the full picture."

Sgt. Wall added that the public shouldn't underestimate Parker. "We know he has autism. But physically he is well, and he can walk far and fast."

Acting Staff Sergeant Scott Guterson said people are still encouraged to send in tips and other information about Parker.

"Rather than searching a general area, we're allowing the investigation to point where those specific pinpoint searches ought to happen."

Acting Staff Sgt. Guterson said police hope Parker is still alive.

"But realistically every day that goes by makes that hope less likely, so we continue to ask the public for help."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Officers say at least three suspects involved in Seattle shooting

GENE JOHNSON SEATTLE

Police said Monday there were at least three suspects involved in a shootout at a crowded food festival near Seattle's Space Needle over the weekend. One of them was among those killed in the violence.

In a document filed in juvenile court in Seattle, where a 15-year-old arrested in the case waived his initial appearance Monday, police said they believe there were at least three shooters, rather than two: the 15-year-old; an acquaintance who died at the scene; and "at least one other unknown suspect."

Nicole Powell, the Seattle Police Department's assistant chief of investigations, told a news conference Monday afternoon that investigators believe the shooting may have been gang-related, with two groups firing at each other. The deceased shooter was 19.

A judge ordered the 15-year-old held in juvenile detention for investigation of firearms violations and first-degree assault. The King County prosecutor's office said it expected to receive the case from Seattle police on Wednesday for a charging decision.

The gunfire erupted around 6 p.m. Sunday in the waning hours of the Bite of Seattle, leaving three people dead and at least four others, including a toddler, injured. The annual three-day festival draws hundreds of food and retail vendors and performers to Seattle Centre, a sprawling park in the shadow of the Space Needle. Many attendees rushed into campus buildings or ran from the park at the sound of the shots.

News that there were at least three suspects followed a series of confusing statements from city officials concerning the shooting.

On Sunday, the police department waited five hours to share with the public that one shooter had been arrested and that they believed another to be on the loose. Earlier, Mayor Katie Wilson had announced two people were in custody, a statement she retracted.

At a news conference before the court hearing Monday, Police Chief Shon Barnes said investigators weren't sure if the second shooter was among the dead. Neither he nor the mayor made any reference to additional shooters. Chief Barnes had been out of town Sunday, attending a conference of Black law-enforcement executives in Dallas.

The officials defended their handling of the case, saying they were trying to ensure they provided accurate information about chaotic events.

The King County Medical Examiner's Office on Monday identified the dead as Carlos Israel Sanchez Villalba, 44; Ashley Whitehead, 56; and Junior Cee Niko Semo, 19.

Mr. Villalba was a husband and father of three known for his kindness and willingness to help others, according to a GoFundMe campaign launched Monday to help his family with funeral expenses. He died from a gunshot wound to his torso, according to the medical examiner's office.

The four wounded included a two-year-old boy, who was in satisfactory condition Monday. The others – two men, ages 23 and 27, and a woman, 39 – were discharged, a hospital spokesperson said.

One of the victims was walking a bicycle when struck, the court document said. The toddler was with his mother.

Vendors were allowed to return to the campus Monday morning to collect their equipment. Skewered squid on grills, roasted ducks in ovens and plates full of food were among the items left behind as people fled.

Near the spot of the shooting, a stain of what appeared to be blood was still visible. A candlelight vigil was planned Monday night at the centre's International Fountain.

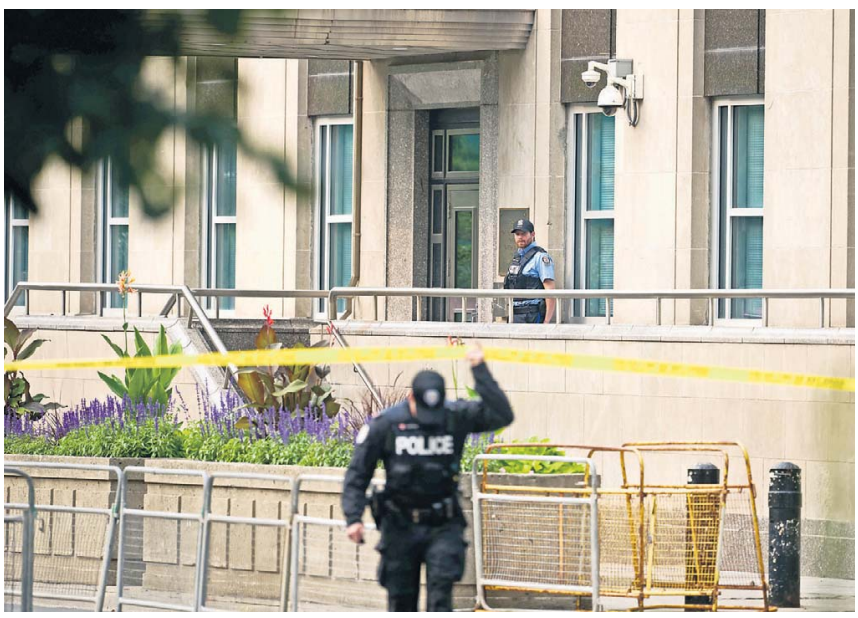
Dozens of officers were providing security at the event and responded in seconds, at least one observing a suspect firing, authorities said. Police searched an Imax theatre on the grounds where they initially believed a second shooter fled.

Adam Lombardo, who had a Burmese food stand at the festival, described the panic of fleeing people as a "stampede." As he gathered his equipment Monday, he described how police escorted food vendors back to the crime scene to turn off their ovens and stoves.

"It's really sad because you think that three innocent people aren't getting up with their families," he said. "They just came to enjoy a food festival with people, with friends, with new friends, and they lost their lives in just what sounds like meaningless bloodshed."

The festival started in 1982 and draws 350,000 attendees, according to its website.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



Police work at the scene of an early morning shooting outside the U.S. consulate in Toronto on Monday.
SAMMY KOGAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Consulate: RCMP working with international partners to investigate Toronto shooting

FROM A1

"So, we will continue with the same level of effort, same level of conviction and dedication, to deal with this."

In March, two people shot at the consulate building in what police later alleged was part of a guns-for-hire network. An officer was killed last month during a police raid targeting suspects in that case.

U.S. prosecutors previously tied the March shooting to an alleged Iraqi terrorist with links to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

Superintendent Jonathan Ko of the RCMP told the Monday news conference that the national force is also involved in the investigation and working with what he described as international partners, but he did not elaborate.

He said it's too early to determine a motive for the latest shooting.

On Monday morning, police officers at the consulate could be seen inspecting a bullet hole on one of the building's exterior walls and a shell casing, which Deputy Chief Barredo said was from a handgun, on the ground. University Avenue at Dundas Street, a major downtown intersection, was closed to vehicles and pedestrians for several hours.

The U.S. consulate thanked Toronto police for their response and said in a statement Monday afternoon that operations had resumed.

At the Monday news conference, Toronto Mayor Olivia Chow repeated her calls from earlier this month to remove illegal American guns from the city's streets and hold shooters accountable.

"Early this morning, a shot was fired at the U.S. consulate. This is when there is a police cruiser, with lights flashing, right in front of it," she said. "This is a brazen attack."

In a Monday post on X, Ontario Premier Doug Ford said he was "disgusted" by the targeting of the U.S. consulate and Jewish-owned bakeries.

Last month, police arrested and charged two men accused of shooting the consulate building in March, tying them to a larger gun-for-hire network that has allegedly targeted synagogues and businesses.

Last month, police arrested and charged two men accused of shooting the consulate building in March, tying them to a larger gun-for-hire network that has allegedly targeted synagogues and businesses.

Police alleged Zara Jabbi and co-accused Sheldon Tracey-Stewart stole an SUV, drove to the U.S. consulate and shot at the building multiple times before ditching the vehicle.

Mr. Jabbi is facing six charges, including vehicle theft and attacking the "premises of Internationally Protected Persons." An internationally protected person is a UN designation for foreign dignitaries. Canada is obliged to provide them with enhanced protection.

Mr. Tracey-Stewart is facing 11 charges, including vehicle theft, illegal firearm possession and discharging a firearm.

The allegations against them have not been tested in court.

At the time, Toronto police alleged the guns-for-hire network was linked to 27 shootings in the city.

Police said on the weekend that they were investigating a shooting that hit a Jewish-owned bakery overnight Saturday in the area of Yonge Street and St. Clair Avenue West.

Another bakery operated by the same business was also reported to have a damaged window, though there was no evidence of gunfire at that location.

There were no injuries at either location, police said. The force's hate crimes division and its guns and gangs task force are both involved in the investigation.

Deputy Chief Barredo said on Monday that investigators haven't ruled out a link between the bakery shooting and the wider gun-for-hire network investigation, but he said he had no information to share.

U.S. prosecutors and the FBI have previously linked the March shooting at the consulate to Mohammad Baqer Saad Dawood Al-Saadi, an alleged Iraqi terrorist with ties to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. He was arrested in Turkey in May and remains in U.S. custody.

Toronto police have not confirmed any connection between Mr. Al-Saadi and the attacks in the city.

The Globe and Mail previously reported last month that police believed the consulate shooting was tied to a larger shooter-for-hire network that investigators had linked to attacks on businesses – including the waste-management company GFL Environmental and tow-truck companies – as well as private residences. This was according to a source whom The Globe is not naming, as they are not authorized to speak publicly about the case.

With reports from The Canadian Press

Macron warns wildfire fight will take time

Gironde blaze has burned through an area four times the size of Paris and forced 220,000 people to flee their homes

MARK CARLSON
EMMA DA SILVA
JOHN LEICESTER
LEGE-CAP FERRET, FRANCE

A firefighter battles wildfires amid drought and water shortages after a heat wave across much of France, in Saint-Jean-d'Illac, Gironde, on Monday. MANON CRUZ/REUTERS

Burnt vehicles sit in Chapinería, Spain, on Monday, after a wildfire forced tens of thousands to evacuate. MANU FERNANDEZ/AP

French President Emmanuel Macron urged fire crews to "stay strong" as they battled Monday to bring a monster wildfire under control, warning that the fight will take time but vowing, "We will win this battle together."

On a visit to a co-ordination centre for the massive firefighting effort in southwest France, Mr. Macron heard how the blaze raging since last week has been wildly unpredictable, transforming at times into a self-feeding firestorm as it burned through an area four times the size of Paris and forced 220,000 people to flee their homes.

"We're facing a completely unprecedented fire," Mr. Macron said, describing the situation as France's worst fire-related crisis since the Second World War.

He praised firefighting teams who stopped the inferno's progression Monday after days of spreading flames that edged toward the wine-region city of Bordeaux. But with woodlands still smouldering, he and other government officials cautioned that the battle isn't yet won, with forests turned tinder-dry by successive heat waves this year and another forecast for this week.

"The weeks ahead will be hard. We must hold firm," Mr. Macron said.

With thousands of firefighters on the ground and rotations of water- and retardant-dropping aircraft, it became a race against time Monday to contain the blaze before temperatures soar, with national weather service forecasts of 35 C and above in southwest France from Tuesday.

Authorities also are working to feed, shelter and care for evacuees who fled in staggering numbers: 250,000 in the southwest, driven away by two fires.

Mr. Macron spoke of displaced people "traumatized" by the upheaval and "who sometimes have lost everything."

No new evacuations were announced Monday. But with France about to enter its peak August tourist season, authorities for the Gironde region around Bordeaux worked to keep vacationers away, banning holiday camps for children and for people with disabilities.

Government ministers also urged people not to travel to the region that is popular for its Atlantic beaches, famous wines and some of France's largest expanses of forests.

Crews using earth movers tore up strips of forest and scrubland to create barren spaces, intended to block the flames that officials said had come within 15 kilometres of Bordeaux's outskirts. Farmers kept fire crews supplied with water, transporting it to them in tanks.

Briefing Mr. Macron, the Gironde region's fire chief explained how crews had wrestled with the blaze unlike any they'd previously tackled, extraordinarily virulent and capricious, "a fire that's going everywhere" and which generated electrical storms that sparked more flare-ups.

"The last 24 hours went well, thanks to your work" Mr. Macron told firefighters. "Doubtless, tomorrow will be more complicated than today."

Around a dozen countries have provided planes, helicopters, firefighters and other assistance to both France and Spain, which is also fighting unprecedented blazes. All told, fires in the two countries have forced more than 330,000 people to flee.

In Spain, wildfires have burned out of control around Madrid and in the Valencia region. Authorities evacuated 79,000 people and confined 30,000 others to their homes.

In both Spain and France, the exceptional scale of the fires – fuelled by heat waves that hit especially hard and early this year, making forests and scrubland tinder-dry – is driving calls for stronger action against climate change.

"What we are experiencing is not a series of isolated incidents. It is the consequence of a climate emergency that is making wildfires even more violent, heat waves more frequent," Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said.

A fire raging in hilly, rural terrain in Ávila, west of Madrid, has become Spain's largest on record, scorching 500 square kilometres, the government said. That's five times the size of Barcelona.

"Look at how the valley is burned. Look at the houses, the people," said David Gonzalez, a 48-year-old gardener who used his van to run supplies to firefighters in Ávila.

"We are feeling lot of anger and helplessness. It's something inhuman," he said.

Fires have burned 1,530 square kilometres this year in Spain – six times the area scorched by blazes in the first half of 2025, said Sara Aagesen, the ecology minister.

The minister said that another heat wave forecast from Tuesday – which would be Spain's fourth so far this year – could ratchet up the fire danger. Spain's weather agency forecast temperatures above 40 C.

A wildfire driven by strong winds broke out on Sunday afternoon near Peschici, in Italy's southern Puglia region, burning pine forest and scrub and forcing the evacuation of about 300 tourists from beaches and campgrounds, authorities said.

The Coast Guard evacuated tourists by sea to nearby Vieste, where authorities opened temporary shelters.

Three Canadair water-bombing planes and fire crews on the ground continued Monday to battle the blaze.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trump hails 'good talks' with Iran, but attacks expose lingering tensions

SAMY MAGDY
ELENA BECATOROS CAIRO

Mediators have achieved progress in getting the United States and Iran back to negotiations, regional officials said Monday, after both sides paused attacks after a period of rapidly escalating tensions. But scattered attacks by armed groups across the region underscored the lingering tensions.

Saudi Arabia said it had shot down drones fired by Iran-backed militias in Iraq that had targeted its petroleum facilities. Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen meanwhile claimed to have attacked Saudi oil facilities as part of a separate but related conflict. It was unclear if they referred to the same attack.

Neither the U.S. nor Iran reported carrying out any attacks for three days – a respite after about two weeks of sustained bombardments that had led to increasing fears of a return to all-out war.

U.S. President Donald Trump said Iran had asked for more discussions, reaching out directly "because we've been hitting them very hard." Iran has said there are no direct talks under way.

"We're having good talks, so we'll see what happens," Mr. Trump told reporters Monday on Air Force One. "I think there's a good chance that something could happen. And if it does, good. If it doesn't, we go back to doing what we were doing two days ago."

The two regional officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the closed-door talks, said mediators led by Qatar and Pakistan were working to bridge the gap between Washington and Tehran to return to an interim ceasefire deal that had collapsed after the exchanges of fire.

In addition to the attack on Saudi Arabia, two drone attacks were reported against a Kurdish Iranian dissident group in Iraq on Monday, and Jordan said it had shot down two drones, without saying where they originated. There were no reports of casualties or damage.

Iran and Ukraine, meanwhile, have been publicly feuding since Ukraine fired on at least one Iranian vessel in the Caspian Sea over the weekend. Iran, which said a sailor had been killed in the attack, is an important ally of Russia in its war against Ukraine and helped Moscow build up its drone expertise.

The U.S. paused attacks after targeting Iranian coastal areas and infrastructure in a nearly two-week escalation sparked by Iran's firing at ships trying to transit the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial waterway for global oil shipments.

Mr. Trump is "giving talks some space. He's giving it a little bit of room," Mike Waltz, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, told Fox News.

Mr. Waltz dismissed the idea that the U.S. stockpile of interceptors crucial in defending against Iranian attacks is running low, but experts have questioned how long both the U.S. and Iran can afford to keep up attacks.

Iran halted its attacks after the American pause, Tehran's army spokesperson told Iranian state TV on Sunday.

One of the regional officials who spoke to AP on Monday described the progress made in mediation efforts as "significant." He said mediators were working with Iran and Oman on a mechanism for managing vessels' transit through the Strait of Hormuz, the flashpoint for the latest strikes and counterstrikes.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Esmail Baghaei, said during a news conference in Tehran on Monday that "mediators may convey messages to us from the American side" but that there were no direct negotiations.

He said Iran and Oman, which lies on the other side of the Strait of Hormuz, had already held talks on Friday and Saturday on how to manage ship traffic through the waterway.

Their aim is to "develop mechanisms to ensure safe navigation through the Strait of Hormuz while respecting the sovereign rights and sovereignty of both coastal states, as well as Iran's security and national interests," Mr. Baghaei said. He stressed that the waterway remains closed.

Tehran has asserted that the interim deal with the U.S. allows it to manage shipping on the waterway and potentially charge fees, and it has objected to U.S. efforts to support an alternative route that passes close to Oman. The strait was open to all without fees before the war.

The U.S. military on Monday said its recently reimposed naval blockade against Iran continued, with 17 commercial ships redirected, two disabled and two boarded.

The 60-day period established by the interim deal in mid-June is now well into its second half, and major issues that were meant to be negotiated – notably Iran's nuclear program at the heart of tensions – have been set aside as mediators try to keep both sides talking.

Concerns have grown about shipping through another crucial waterway in the region, the Bab-el-Mandeb strait to the Red Sea. The Houthis last week threatened a blockade of Saudi shipping there, and fired on at least one Saudi tanker, setting it alight.

Global energy supplies and the economy remain in the balance as gasoline prices have risen again.

Commercial shipping traffic in the Strait of Hormuz was at a three-week low, a maritime body overseen by the U.S. Navy said Sunday, adding that no new attacks had been confirmed in the past 72 hours. It said traffic remained steady through Bab-el-Mandeb.

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he plans to meet with Mr. Trump in Washington on Tuesday. They last met in Washington in February, weeks before they launched the war on Iran that killed senior leaders, including Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The Iran-backed Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon fired at Israel two days after the war began, and Israel responded with air strikes and a ground invasion. Since then, the U.S. has supported landmark direct talks between Lebanon and Israel to try to calm that front and find a way to disarm Hezbollah.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Indian activists challenge Modi government's use of AI surveillance at protests

SAURABH SHARMA
MUNSIF VENGATTIL

Indian activists are challenging Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government over the use of AI-powered surveillance at the largest youth protest in decades, with one court case set to become a test of federal powers even after agitation ended.

The surveillance controversy erupted during last week's student protests over exam paper leaks, when demonstrators posted pictures on social media of a mobile police-surveillance van equipped with cameras on a telescopic mast providing a 360-degree view of the gathering.

One protester, student activist Aishe Ghosh, has asked the Delhi High Court to declare mass surveillance of protesters unconstitutional and direct the destruction of all personal data collected during the protest, as well as order the framing of guidelines on how surveillance technology can be used.

Ms. Ghosh is pressing on with the case even though the protest ended after Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan resigned in a rare setback for Mr. Modi, who has since announced a panel to overhaul the cheating-prone exam system. India has no law governing the use of facial-recognition technology by police and surveillance at the main protest site in New Delhi was a breach of the law, activists say.

The government says such checks were legal and in the public interest to ensure law and order.

Mr. Modi's government has often been accused by opposition parties and digital-rights advocates of expanding surveillance powers and tightly controlling digital communications. It has rejected such accusations, saying it only acts in the public interest.

During a hearing on Friday, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta defended the Indian police conduct, saying privacy claims at a public gathering were "ironical" and the checks were "absolutely necessary" and "in legitimate state interest."

In a brief hearing on Monday, judges heard arguments from Ms. Ghosh that intrusive mass surveillance of protesters was disproportionate, as she sought broader disclosures on the state's surveillance policies during protests. The court will hear the matter on Tuesday.

Internet Freedom Foundation, a New Delhi-based digital advocacy group, wrote to Delhi's police commissioner on July 24 demanding the deletion of biometric data collected at the protest site.

In a post on social-media platform X on Sunday, the force said it had not "restricted anyone's freedom through the use of facial recognition technology."

"We need proportionality even if we are to claim national security risks. Accountability must flow both ways," said Akash Karmakar, a technology-law partner at Indian law firm Panag & Babu.

He said if India used facial recognition to track protesters, it must also be used to identify police officers who allegedly acted without name badges during the crackdown.

Police were also seen noting Instagram handles of protesters arriving at the site. When asked why, Inspector Sunil Kumar told Reuters the checks were to ensure no one with a criminal background entered the protest.

The surveillance van parked at the site was emblazoned with the Delhi Police crest and the branding "Ikshana," Hindi for "vision."

REUTERS

Trump defends economic policies in Michigan

President touts that tariffs have revived the auto industry but some businesses say they have hurt the state

WILL WEISSERT
DARLENE SUPERVILLE
MILFORD, MICH.

U.S. President Donald Trump came to Michigan on Monday and argued that his economic policies have revived the auto industry and American manufacturing, even as some businesses contend that the sweeping tariffs he's imposed have actually hurt the state.

Mr. Trump visited a sprawling General Motors facility in the Detroit suburb of Milford that is a testing ground for its vehicles. He pumped a fist after watching a trio of drag races that involved muscle cars and luxury vehicles like the Corvette Z06, Cadillac Escalade V, and EV Hummer – events the announcer promised were "all America First power."

It was the kind of thundering speed the President is expecting at an IndyCar race in Washington next month, which is part of America's 250th birthday celebrations.

In a subsequent speech inside a design facility, the President cheered GM's plans to expand production domestically in coming years and declared himself a president who was standing up for auto workers "at long last."

"I've done more for you than your parents, OK?" he joked.

Michigan was one of the 2024 battlegrounds Mr. Trump flipped after it backed Democrat Joe Biden in 2020. But the state has seen parts of its economy affected by the President's tariffs, including on imported cars and auto parts. Automakers have long said tariffs increase the cost of doing business, which leads to higher prices for consumers.

Company officials led Mr. Trump on a tour where he saw various GM models, including the latest versions of the Chevrolet Suburban, GMC Sierra and Chevrolet Silverado – the production of which he argued had been boosted by tariffs.

At one point, the President grabbed a pen and signed the hood of a white Corvette that was made specifically for America's 250th birthday.

"They've come a long way," he said to reporters about the Detroit-based automaker during the tour. "It's amazing what tariffs are doing for GM." Mr. Trump said he's been good to the company but he declined to say more.

The President's speech lasted more than an hour and was wide ranging – hitting on the economy, the war in Iran and the U.S. military operation that toppled the leader of Venezuela.

He also touched on communism, crime rates, his administration's efforts to transform the nation's capital and even how carefully he treads to keep from tripping while on stage or deplaning from Air Force One.

With early primary voting already under way, Mr. Trump called on stage Republican Representatives Lisa McClain, Tom Barrett and Tim Walberg, as well as gubernatorial candidate John James and Senate candidate Mike Rogers.

Mr. Rogers is unopposed in the Senate primary, but the GOP gubernatorial contest pits Mr. James, who is backed by Mr. Trump, against Perry Johnson, a businessman turned politician who has launched unsuccessful campaigns before, including for president in 2024.

A new round of steep import levies is taking effect on dozens of U.S. trading partners. Yet Mr. Trump has singled out Canada with tariffs as high as 50 per cent on a wide array of its products, including cars.

The GM facility he toured is in Oakland County, which encompasses much of Detroit's northern suburbs. Once a Republican stronghold, it has increasingly leaned Democratic, backing Mr. Biden against Mr. Trump in 2020 and vice-president Kamala Harris against Mr. Trump four years later.

Michigan's economy relies heavily on Canada, meaning the new tariffs – coupled with inflation still running high and gas prices rising again as the already unpopular war in Iran escalates – have created additional economic concerns statewide. Some advocacy groups citing import and tariff data, says tariffs have cost Michigan businesses billions of dollars just since last spring.

The latest tariffs come at a time when voters across the country were already increasingly dissatisfied with Mr. Trump's handling of the economy.

Jason Roe, a former executive director of the Michigan Republican Party who tried unsuccessfully to distance it from Mr. Trump's Make America Great Again movement in 2021, said that more than coinciding with his new round of tariffs, Mr. Trump's visit is a function of Michigan's relatively late primary and is meant to ensure that Mr. James secures the nomination.

But Mr. Roe also said it was a risk for the President to tie himself too closely to top Republicans before the general election, calling it "kryptonite to November voters."

Mr. Trump, who won the White House on a promise to lower the cost of living, also has seen his approval ratings sag, meaning kitchen table issues could be a liability for Republicans trying to hold control of Congress in the Nov. 3 elections.

"We're happy to have the President here, campaigning with Republicans. We think it highlights the fact that the only thing they care about is Donald Trump and refuse to stand up to him," said Curtis Hertel, chairman of the Michigan Democratic Party. "It's good for us every time the President is here because he's incredibly unpopular."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The family of Gordie Howe, the legendary Canadian hockey player, make the first official car crossing over the Gordie Howe International Bridge as it opens to the public in Windsor, Ont., on Monday. BILL PUGLIANO/GETTY IMAGES

Gordie Howe bridge opens to traffic after months of delays

OTTAWA

The Gordie Howe International Bridge opened to motorists Monday after months of controversy over financial aspects of the project.

Officials announced in a post on social media just after noon that the Howe family had crossed first, in honour of the bridge's Canadian-American hockey namesake.

Minutes later, another post marked the crossing of the first commercial truck, a vehicle from a trucking company in Tecumseh, Ont., that was carrying auto parts to Michigan.

As the sunny afternoon went on, cars and transport trucks brought a stream of inaugural crossings.

Cyclists stopped on nearby Broadway Street in Windsor, Ont., to watch some of the first vehicles make the trip. Traffic trickled in and out of Canada after passing through toll booths.

Meanwhile, a Detroit resident took in the opening from a lawn chair parked beneath the bridge, with two fishing rods capped with small U.S. flags fastened to a railing, their lines dangling in the river.

U.S. President Donald Trump insisted in a social media post in February that the United States would have to be compensated before he would allow the bridge to open.

He falsely claimed the $6.4-billion structure connecting Windsor and Detroit was built with virtually no American content.

Canada subsequently agreed to make some adjustments concerning the sharing of revenues. Prime Minister Mark Carney later said he could have been more clear about the terms of the deal, as Conservative critics accused him of bending to Mr. Trump's administration.

Canada held a ceremony last week to help mark the opening of the bridge, but a joint celebration with the United States was cancelled over Washington's recent threat of new tariffs on Canadian goods.

American officials said the new levies are a response to provincial bans on U.S. alcohol, Canada's supply-managed dairy system and quotas on American cars.

Pete Hoekstra, the U.S. ambassador to Canada, welcomed the milestone Monday, saying the bridge will add "new capacity to one of the busiest and most economically significant border crossings between the United States and Canada."

Cyclists stop on Broadway Street in Windsor, Ont., to watch some of the first vehicles cross the bridge on Monday. DAX MELMER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The bridge over the Detroit River, named for the Canadian hockey icon known to some as "Mr. Hockey," is expected to serve as a critical route for trade, jobs and tourism between Canada and the U.S.

More than 70 per cent of Canada's exports go to the U.S. For nearly a century, the privately owned Ambassador Bridge has been the only route for large commercial trucks moving between the U.S. and Canada at Detroit.

Businesses say the new six-lane span will be faster and less expensive.

Construction on the bridge began in 2018 but took years, partly because of a global slowdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Goldy Hyder, president of the Business Council of Canada, said the project is a powerful example of collaboration between governments and communities.

The business council has anticipated that the bridge would strengthen competitiveness on both sides of the border, supporting jobs and investments, since it was first announced in 2012, Mr. Hyder said in a statement.

Trucking firms say the opening of the Gordie Howe bridge promises more efficient transport – though not necessarily lower prices for consumers.

Canadian Trucking Alliance CEO Stephen Laskowski says the new span between Detroit and Windsor, Ont., will make for better traffic flow, smother security procedures and competitive toll rates that could save large trucking companies up to $100,000 a month.

The six-lane bridge offers a direct connection between Ontario's Highway 401 and Interstate 75 across the Detroit river, while the four-lane Ambassador Bridge upstream requires an off-ramp and up to 14 traffic lights on the Canadian side.

Mike Millian, president of the Private Motor Truck Council of Canada, says the new crossing also features quicker, more up-to-date X-ray imaging facilities and tolls that sit well below recent rates at the privately owned Ambassador Bridge.

However, he says that high diesel fuel prices following a tough couple of years for the industry mean the cost savings may not trickle down to consumers any time soon.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

With reports from the Associated Press

McConnell not cleared to leave rehab, statement says

KEVIN FREKING WASHINGTON

The office of Senator Mitch McConnell released an update on his health Monday, this time with a statement from the congressional Office of Attending Physician stating the senator has not yet been medically cleared to leave a rehabilitation facility where he is undergoing physical therapy.

The update comes shortly before his home state's annual Fancy Farm picnic, which features speeches from politicians throughout the state seeking elected office. Mr. McConnell said in a written statement that he won't be able to attend the event.

"There's no place I'd rather be on the first Saturday in August than with the good people of western Kentucky, feasting on pork and mutton," he said.

He said that when he first attended the event 42 years ago, Fancy Farm was a lonely place for Republicans, but times have changed. "So I hate that I'll miss the fun this year, but I'm sending my best wishes to the St. Jerome community for a successful picnic," Mr. McConnell said.

Mr. McConnell, 84, was admitted to the hospital on June 14 and revealed weeks later that it was due to a fall. He had polio in his early childhood and has long acknowledged some difficulty as an adult in walking and climbing stairs.

The statement from the Office of the Attending Physician said Mr. McConnell has maintained a strenuous course of physical therapy and rehabilitation since he left the hospital, which includes multiple sessions a day designed to rebuild strength and reduce the risk of future falls.

"His bout with childhood polio continues to be a significant factor in his mobility. He is not yet medically cleared to leave the rehab facility and return to the office," said the statement from the physician's office in Congress.

Mr. McConnell said he appreciated the well wishes he has received in recent weeks, and "I'm looking forward to getting back to the Senate and to Kentucky soon." Mr. McConnell is not seeking re-election but intends to finish out his term.

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Blaze near Clinton, B.C., continues to rage

Officials tally damage, meet with homeowners as sad stories emerge from community

NONO SHEN
BRENNA OWEN

A councillor for Clinton, B.C., said Monday that sad stories were emerging from the southern Interior community where homes and other structures have been destroyed by wildfire, as authorities begin tallying the damage and the process of reaching out to homeowners.

A photograph provided by the BC Wildfire Service appeared to show most of the village intact on Monday, with smoke still shrouding the forested slopes surrounding the village, about 350 kilometres northeast of Vancouver.

But Nicolas Kosovic, who also operates the Stagecoach Cafe in Clinton with his mother Maria, said a number of properties had been lost south of the village where the fire behaviour "was quite severe."

They include Steve's Towing, whose owner Steve Larabie told The Canadian Press on Saturday that the business and two family homes on the property had been lost.

Mr. Kosovic, who fled the fire late Friday, declined to identify others and warned against relying on social media for information.

"I know everyone is speculating. Certainly, I was thinking about what happened to my house. My house was uninsured, so it's just like if I'm going to lose everything, I'm going to know," he added.

Mr. Kosovic said he had received word Monday morning that "as of last night, my house is still standing."

Clinton Mayor Roland Stanke said an assessment crew would be in the village on Monday and Tuesday and would survey the extent of the destruction.

"If there is damage to your property you will be personally contacted, hopefully before you see misinformation posted on Facebook," he said in a social media post. "There are smouldering embers still everywhere that can flare up a few days after a fire has gone through causing structural fires."

Mr. Stanke said water was being turned back on for residents who "chose to defy the evacuation order" but it would have to be boiled before drinking, while BC Hydro crews were doing checks before restoring power, and there were still downed power lines.

A statement from the village thanked more than 15 members of the Clinton fire department who have stayed behind and worked "tirelessly" to protect the community.

Firefighters had divided the village into quadrants and were conducting continuous patrols to extinguish any spot fires, it said, and structure protection personnel with the BC Wildfire Service also remained in Clinton.

The complex of fires threatening Clinton and surrounding areas continues to burn out of control, with the Pear Lake and Fiftynine Creek blazes merging over the weekend to span more than 630 square kilometres.

Residents of 70 Mile House, B.C., were told to leave their homes on Monday in an expanded evacuation order from the Thompson-Nicola Regional District that now covers about 650 properties on both sides of Highway 97.

That's in addition to properties in Clinton, where officials issued an evacuation order Friday as flames roared to the outskirts of the community.

Village officials have said most of Clinton's residential area survived. The BC Wildfire Service hadn't posted any photos of the Clinton area since last Thursday, the day before the wildfire surged, but on Monday it shared several.

One of the latest photos, dated Monday, showed residential areas in the village itself appeared intact, although the whole community wasn't visible.

Firefighters and structure protection personnel remained in the village on Monday, the BC Wildfire Service said in an update posted online.

It said a guard had been established at the southeast corner of Clinton, while crews were working on another barrier between the village and the fire's edge.

"Heavy equipment resources will begin developing containment lines farther out from the fire in order to get ahead of the rapid fire growth and behaviour that we are seeing," the service said.

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District issued an evacuation order for two properties later Monday due to another blaze, the Rim Lake wildfire, burning to the east of the combined Pear Lake and Fiftynine Creek blaze.

The roughly 250-square-kilometre French Bar Creek fire also continues to burn to the northwest.

The blazes are among about 130 wildfires in B.C., with more than 50 burning out of control.

Air-quality warnings due to wildfire smoke remain in effect for much of B.C.'s central and southern Interior as well as the Prince George and Fort St. John areas.

Mr. Kosovic, who was in Kamloops with his mother and their cat, said he planned to meet with his best friend, who had lost his home to the flames.

"We're going to be there for each other and support each other in this critical time," said Mr. Kosovic.

"I think Clinton is quite resilient. It is a strong community," he added.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A killer whale is pictured near Canso Causeway on Friday. In 2008, a paper prepared for the federal Fisheries Department said a review of sightings and photographs from across Atlantic Canada confirmed 363 sightings between 1864 and 2007. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'We all got sprayed': Rare sightings of killer whale off Nova Scotia causeway leave public in awe

MICHAEL MacDONALD

Kayla Partridge was on a small boat with family and friends Sunday when they were suddenly part of an exceptionally rare encounter with a lone killer whale off southern Cape Breton.

"We were just kind of putting along and then we saw him breach," Ms. Partridge said in an interview Monday, recalling how the orca leapt from the water on the western side of the Canso Causeway, which links the island with mainland Nova Scotia.

"We shut the motor down, shut everything down, and just coasted along. It came right up under the boat … two or three times."

A video of the sighting shows the large, black-and-white whale swimming under the boat and then surfacing a few metres away, exhaling a powerful blast breath from its blowhole.

"We all got sprayed," said Ms. Partridge, who lives in nearby East Tracadie, N.S. "It was really remarkable. It's not a normal thing for around here …. It's one of those, holy cow, once-in-a-lifetime (moments)."

On Sunday, the Nova Scotia-based Marine Animal Response Society posted messages on social media saying the solitary orca had been spotted in the past few days and appeared to be in good shape.

"Orca sightings in coastal Nova Scotia are rare, making this a truly remarkable animal to encounter," the organization said in an online statement.

Meanwhile, the non-profit group asked boaters to give the whale plenty of room, adding that federal rules require vessels to stay at least 100 metres away from any whales.

The group said it had received numerous reports of vessels near the whale, saying that information had been forwarded to the federal Fisheries Department, which had dispatched fishery officers to the strait.

The department did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

"The best way to enjoy this rare visitor is from shore," the conservation group said. "Giving the whale plenty of space helps reduce disturbance and allows it to move through the area naturally."

Ms. Partridge said she and her family were on their way home when they spotted the whale. She said they were aware of the regulations and made no effort to approach the animal.

"We had the motor shut off long before we ever got anywhere close to being 100 metres away. I think it just saw us and … was curious," she said.

"I would urge anyone out there in the straight who's driving around trying to find it, just to be respectful of those regulations. It does keep the animals safe and it keeps you safe."

In 2008, a research paper prepared for the federal Fisheries Department said a review of sightings and photographs from across Atlantic Canada confirmed 363 sightings between 1864 and 2007, most of them recorded in the waters off Newfoundland and Labrador.

"Killer whales have been reported rarely from coastal Nova Scotia, the Bay of Fundy and the northeastern United States, despite many years of aerial and shipboard cetacean surveys conducted by the [U.S.-based] National Marine Fisheries Service," the paper said.

More recently, lobster fishers working off northern Cape Breton reported seeing a pod of about a dozen orcas not far from Cape Smokey in June of last year.

As well, published accounts in 2023 reported sightings near Cape Race, N.L., as well as near La Tabatière, Que., in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and the Bay of Fundy near New Brunswick's Grand Manan Island.

Aside from the most recent sighting on the weekend, the last time people in Canso, N.S., spotted orcas was in June 2019.

And in July, 2016, a family on a small boat off southern Newfoundland reported being encircled by a pod of orcas. At the time, retired fisherman Norm Strickland said five or six whales surrounded his 5.5-metre boat near Burgeo and started charging the boat.

"It was really harder than a bump," Strickland said in an interview in 2016. "It was jolting the boat enough that when it hit, you almost lost your balance."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION ASKS SUPREME COURT TO TIGHTEN MAIL-IN BALLOT RESTRICTIONS

U.S. President Donald Trump's administration asked the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday to allow implementation nationwide of his executive order aimed at tightening rules for mail-in voting ahead of the November midterm elections that will decide control of Congress.

In a filing, the Justice Department requested that the justices put on hold a judge's ruling preventing the enforcement of the Republican President's directive in 23 mostly Democratic-governed states and Washington, which had challenged the order as unconstitutional, while the litigation plays out.

The Supreme Court ordered those states to respond to the Justice Department's request by Aug. 3.

U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani rejected the administration's argument that the states lacked the necessary legal standing to challenge Mr. Trump's directive. In June, Justice Talwani ruled the President lacked the authority to order changes in how states administer federal elections, noting that under the U.S. Constitution, states have the role of determining voter-eligibility requirements.

The administration said the justices should lift Justice Talwani's ruling because the lawsuit is premature.

Federal agencies "are still deliberating over how (if at all) to implement the order, yet the district court pre-emptively decided that whatever the agencies may choose to do will necessarily be unlawful," the Justice Department said in its filing. REUTERS

DURHAM POLICE DEPUTY CHIEF TO RETIRE AFTER WATCHDOG UNCOVERS MISCONDUCT

A Durham Regional police deputy chief will retire after the police board says an investigation by a watchdog agency found he committed misconduct.

The Durham Regional Police Service Board says it has agreed with deputy chief Chris Kirkpatrick that "their employment relationship be concluded."

In a statement posted on social media this morning, the board says Mr. Kirkpatrick will not be returning to work and is retiring from the police service east of Toronto.

It says the decision has been made after "careful review and deliberation" of an investigation by the Law Enforcement Complaints Agency that determined Mr. Kirkpatrick's actions amounted to misconduct under the Community Safety and Policing Act.

The statement did not specify what actions were investigated by the watchdog, and neither the board nor the agency immediately responded to a request for comment.

In February, the Durham force said a deputy chief had been suspended after using "racially inappropriate term" during a meeting of its Afro-Caribbean Canadian Internal Support Network. It did not name the deputy chief.

The board's statement Monday said it remains "deeply committed to fostering an inclusive workplace and culture, and to ensuring that the DRPS reflects and respects the diverse communities it serves."

"These values are fundamental to how this service operates and how it earns the trust of the public every day."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DEADLINE NEARS TO FILE CLAIM IN CLASS-ACTION LAWSUIT OVER DRUG REXULTI

The deadline is fast approaching for Canadians to claim their share of a multimillion-dollar class-action lawsuit over the drug Rexulti.

Canadians have until Aug. 27 to file a claim for their share of a $4.75-million settlement over the antipsychotic medication used to treat schizophrenia and depression.

Quebec Superior Court approved the settlement in November, one year after authorizing the national class action against Otsuka Canada Pharmaceutical Inc. and Lundbeck Canada Inc.

The class action covers Canadians who were prescribed the drug since February, 2017, and later developed compulsive behaviours or impulse-control disorders such as gambling, shopping or binge-eating.

Lawyers representing affected patients and families have said the deal is a compromise with no admission of liability.

Applicants could receive anywhere from roughly $6,500 for mild cases to more than $102,000 in more severe cases.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Even before attack, Berlin's gay community felt unsafe

Pride attendees question how assailant got past increased security measures

JIM TANKERSLEY
PHILIP KALETA BERLIN

People walk past a makeshift memorial at Tiergarten park in Berlin on Monday, after an attack near the city's annual Christopher Street Day Pride celebration on Saturday left one woman dead and 29 people injured.
ANNEGRET HILSE/REUTERS

The parade at the centre of Berlin's gay Pride celebration Saturday was a sunny blur of glitter and feathers, of rainbow flags and thumping techno beats. It was cocooned by walls of metal barricades and guarded by 2,200 police officers – up from 1,300 last year, as the city tried to curb a wave of violence against Berlin's gay community.

Those precautions failed to prevent an attack late Saturday night, when an assailant plowed a rented van into a group of revellers leaving the celebration via a side street in the city's central Tiergarten park, just outside the security perimeter. He attacked others with what appeared to be a machete, shocking those who thought the extra security measures might protect them.

"How did he even get into the Tiergarten?" asked Benjamin Bock, an attendee who said he had been at the site of the attack 10 minutes before it happened. "There were anti-car and anti-truck barriers everywhere. Thousands of police officers were on duty."

One woman was killed, and 29 people were injured, the authorities said. Police shot and killed the main suspect Sunday evening, ending a daylong national search. Officials called the attack Islamist terrorism, and named the suspect as Abdul B., 21, omitting his surname in line with German privacy laws.

It was a sum-of-all-fears moment for Berlin's LGBTQ+ community and for city officials, who ramped up security at Pride events in recent years and who had appeared to be making progress in their efforts to stem a surge of crime against the community.

Berlin started an effort in 2024 to combat violence and discrimination against its LGBTQ+ community. According to city statistics, "anti-queer" crimes more than tripled in the city between 2016 and 2025. Violent anti-queer crimes rose by half. Both violent and non-violent offences peaked in 2023 and have fallen since the city began its strategy, but both types of crimes remain historically elevated.

Much of that effort has focused on countering growing hostility from Germany's far right; in Berlin, far-right ideology was the most frequently cited specific motivation for homophobic attacks in the city in 2025. But on Sunday, after the authorities said the perpetrator had attempted to join the terrorist Islamic State group, community leaders said they were increasingly worried about threats from a wider range of political and religious motivations.

"We queer people in Berlin are feeling more and more unsafe," Florian Winkler-Schwarz, managing director of the LSVD Association for Queer Diversity Berlin-Brandenburg, a civil rights group, said in an interview.

Mr. Winkler-Schwarz said the police presence and other safety measures at the celebration Saturday "were enormously high." But, he said, "I believe that you cannot guarantee 100 per cent security for such a massive event."

Alfonso Pantisano is the LGBTQ+ affairs commissioner for Berlin's state government, a position created as part of a strategy to combat violence and discrimination against the community. He attended the Christopher Street Day celebration with a police escort because of the threats he has received since taking the job. He stayed at the site deep into Sunday morning to help and comfort people who were evacuating after the attack.

"My heart is broken," Mr. Pantisano said in an interview. "It's making me wonder if, in this life that I have at the moment – and I'm 52 now – I will ever get to a point where I can say, as the queer community, finally, we are really safe."

Many festivalgoers in Berlin grappled with similar fears in the wake of the attack.

Uwe Brzezek and his partner, Olav Kedziora, stood outside a church memorial service Sunday afternoon, as rain fell, surrounded by dozens of mourners. Some carried Pride flags.

Mr. Brzezek and Mr. Kedziora attended Saturday's Pride festivities but left hours before the attack.

"Yesterday, friends of mine dressed up for Pride," Mr. Kedziora said. "But they changed back into regular clothes before taking the subway home. They were afraid of being harassed. You would have hoped that, at least on that day, it wouldn't have been necessary."

Mr. Brzezek said that when he moved to Berlin in the 1990s, "I never felt afraid. Now there are certain situations I avoid."

Some said they feel particularly unsafe in areas with large numbers of migrants, including higher numbers of conservative Islamists.

The suspect was a German citizen of Lebanese background, living in an area with a large Arab community, and he had developed extremist views, authorities said.

"Diversity itself seems to be becoming a challenge," Mr. Kedziora said. "Too many extremes are colliding. We have to learn how to live together."

Some people at the memorial Sunday said German leaders had contributed to a sense of insecurity. They singled out the far-right Alternative for Germany party, which has climbed in national polls with a platform that defines a family as a man and a woman with children. Others criticized Friedrich Merz, the chancellor, who defended a decision not to fly a Pride flag over the federal parliament building last year by saying parliament was "not a circus tent."

Mr. Merz and Berlin Mayor Kai Wegner attended the memorial service Sunday. Afterward, Mr. Wegner led a silent march from the church to the Brandenburg Gate. Several hundred people joined the march. Mr. Merz briefly spoke before the service, expressing outrage over the attacks and solidarity with the community. At a speech later in the evening, he elaborated.

"Violence doesn't begin with an attack," he said. "Violence begins with intolerance, with exclusion, with discrimination, with stupid remarks and bad jokes."

The authorities said Sunday that they would review security protocols to determine how the attacker was able to target people so close to the celebration.

Officials and attendees alike said the violence would not deter them from future celebrations.

NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

Trafficking: Issue overlaps with broader societal concerns such as addiction, poverty

The EmpowerMen team works out of the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, an Indigenous-led, community-based family resource centre in Manitoba. SHANNON VANRAES/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

FROM A1

The 30-page report also highlighted how resource-extraction sites are playing a role in human-trafficking cases by spurring sex-buying demand in areas near major projects.

"Behind every record is a person, a family, a community that's really seeking answers, protection and justice," Ms. Panton said. (Woodbridge Co. Ltd., the Thomson family holding company and controlling shareholder of Thomson Reuters, also owns The Globe and Mail.)

For Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum of Nishnawbe Aski Nation, who represents 49 First Nations in Northern Ontario, it has been gratifying to see more attention being paid to the issues she has been raising for decades.

"We have long waited for governments and private companies to take this link between sex trafficking and our missing and murdered women seriously," she said. "And while we have, of course, already shown them many numbers before, part of what all this new research is doing is that it helps us to tell them exactly what they should be working on, and where we need better policies and enforcement."

Sex-ad analysis was a key tool used by Thomson Reuters researchers to investigate human trafficking because it allowed them to geographically plot the demand that fuels these networks.

For last year's report, the researchers had collected 3,485 sex ads posted in Canada since 2016. The study concluded that a larger volume of sex ads was correlated with a higher number of cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. This year, they refreshed that data by collecting a further 313 sex ads from May of 2025 to March, 2026. These ads offered locations, phone numbers and photos of Indigenous women and girls. The researchers tracked how sex ads were posted for what appeared to be the same person in different cities, then analyzed changes to their advertised locations to map the most commonly used trafficking corridors in Canada.

They also learned other qualitative insights, such as how sex buyers on messaging boards in Canada are advising others to seek Indigenous women and avoid white women, because the latter are perceived to be more likely to be connected to law enforcement.

Researchers wrote in the report that "an unintended, problematic effect" of police sting operations involving white women may be "sex buyers seeking out Indigenous women due to a perceived lower risk associated with the Indigenous population."

They noted that human trafficking is a particularly complex issue because it overlaps with broader societal concerns, such as drug addiction, poverty, homelessness, colonization and systemic discrimination. Often, researchers said, victims may not know or believe that they are being trafficked.

(Sex ads were considered to be a general indicator of human trafficking for the purposes of this analysis, which did not exclude ads that may have been for voluntary sex work. Researchers searched through posts to find those where someone was identified as Indigenous or Native American – meaning they may have missed ads where the ethnicity was not stated and simultaneously may have included those where the ethnicity was inaccurate.)

Heather Panton from Thomson Reuters says the new report aims to aid with preventing trafficking. LOUIE PALU/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

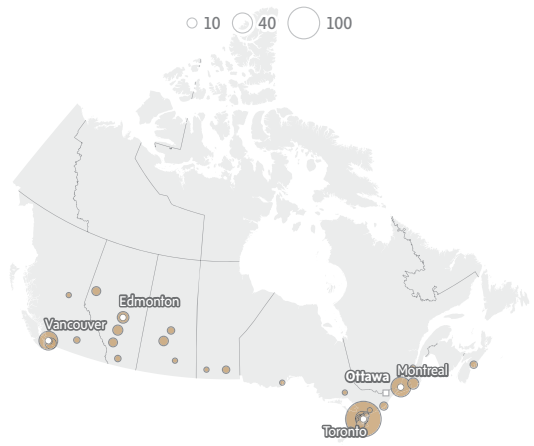
Right: EmpowerMen has done its own research on the trafficking problem. SHANNON VANRAES/ THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Locations where Indigenous women and girls have disappeared from

Data from May 2025 to March 2026

THE GLOBE AND MAIL , SOURCE: THOMSON REUTERS

Sex ads posted online featuring an Indigenous person



Data from May 2025 to March 2026

THE GLOBE AND MAIL , SOURCE: THOMSON REUTERS

The Thomson Reuters report dovetails with a Globe investigation published last month that demonstrated the ways in which predators are utilizing short-term rental platforms as they move victims between cities. In one case, a Quebec teenager was pressured into providing sexual services to at least 50 men in the span of 15 days. She was taken westward from Montreal through Ontario – to Toronto, Sudbury, Timmins and Thunder Bay – before winding up in Manitoba, The Globe reported.

For their 2026 report, Thomson Reuters researchers examined data from the United States for the first time, which, Ms. Panton said, illustrates the borderless and transnational nature of these crimes.

The report found that Indigenous women and girls in the U.S. share similar vulnerabilities to those in Canada, and that both countries offer challenges to obtain data because neither maintains a unified government repository for these cases.

In many instances, analysts saw that phone numbers associated with sex ads in Canada were also used in ads in the U.S.

In doing their analysis, researchers found cases where ads for the same person were posted in locations separated by vast distances, such as Toronto and Vancouver, just a few days apart.

The movement of victims across such corridors highlights the need for more awareness at transit and transport checkpoints, Ms. Panton said. It also indicates that jurisdictions should be working more closely together to spot trafficking in well-known corridors, including by stationing dedicated personnel, she added.

Ms. Panton said last year's edition of the report emphasized the importance of law enforcement incorporating sex-ad analysis into active investigations.

Earlier this year, in Minnesota – a jurisdiction that began to integrate sex-ad analysis into its work after the 2025 Thomson Reuters report – investigators found ads that were paramount in an active case. Shortly after a missing person's report was filed for an Indigenous woman, they cross-referenced her photo to confirm that she had been trafficked. They located her safely and she is now back with her family.

Taylor Wencel, an intelligence specialist for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office in Minnesota, said it is important to ensure that "no potential lead is overlooked in the pursuit of justice."

"Every missing person deserves every available investigative resource," he said in a statement. "Cross-referencing sex-ad data with missing persons cases has demonstrated its value by helping to identify individuals and generate leads that may not have been discovered through traditional approaches alone."

The Minnesota example shows why sex-ad analysis should be added as a standard practice into similar investigations conducted by all police forces, Ms. Panton said.

Ms. Achneepineskum said she has been deeply worried about findings by Thomson Reuters related to Prince George, an outlier in their data. "I worry about what it says for our future," she said.

In the rugged northern B.C.

The Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre hosts a memorial to those affected by residential schools. SHANNON VANRAES/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Hennes Doltze with EmpowerMen says there's work to do in convincing men to 'step up and challenge the norms of sexual exploitation.' TEMUR DURRANI/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Sheri Taylor is chief of Ginoogaming First Nation in Northern Ontario and says her community is vulnerable to human trafficking.

city, with a population of around 76,000 and an economy predicated on resource extraction, researchers found at least three cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls within a 10-month period.

Though one of the individuals was located safely, and thus did not make up the 38 disappearance cases included in the study, Ms. Panton said Prince George should be a warning sign for other areas with large resource-extraction projects.

Last year, Winnipeg-based EmpowerMen released a 96-page report about the linkage between the resource-extraction industry and sex trafficking, which Thomson Reuters referenced in its research. It showed how newly established industrial camps near construction sites – or "man camps," as they are commonly called – have historically tolerated and led to the victimization of vulnerable women and girls.

Hennes Doltze, the project lead of EmpowerMen, said this matter goes to the heart of the problems associated with sex-buyer demand.

His small team of advocates works out of the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, an Indigenous-led, community-based family resource centre in Manitoba. They are Canada's leading group focusing on demand reduction for human trafficking.

"The influx of cash that comes in with these camps of men, away from families and willing to spend money, not only affects the population living nearby, but also makes these sites the perfect hot spot for the travelling networks of human traffickers," Mr. Doltze said.

It's important to educate men to challenge the norms of sexual exploitation, he said.

"We hear often from men who have solicited prostitution that they didn't know the woman or girl they were with was being trafficked," he said. "But the majority don't want to know – that's their mindset. We have to work toward changing that as a society."

Mr. Doltze believes the only reason sex trafficking exists is because there is a market for sex buyers. "If we're able to create more policies and frameworks that directly address this issue of demand with these men, without fear or stigma and with direct intervention, we can prevent so much of this issue from proliferating the way it has."

Last week, in Prince George, federal Natural Resources Minister Tim Hodgson attended an event for a $4-billion Enbridge natural gas pipeline expansion. As his news conference celebrated the start of construction at the site, absent were any details about protocols to combat human trafficking.

In a statement to The Globe, Mr. Hodgson's office acknowledged that while infrastructure-related projects are able to "create significant economic opportunities and benefits, Indigenous communities have also raised concerns about the heightened risks of violence."

"As Canada advances major resource and infrastructure projects, the Government recognizes the importance of working proactively with Indigenous partners, industry and other governments to help identify, prevent and address risks related to gender-based violence, human trafficking and community safety," said the statement from Mr. Hodgson's spokesperson Charlotte Power.

Enbridge spokesperson Gina Sutherland said the company implements rigorous training and extensive awareness measures to ensure there is "zero tolerance for harassment, exploitation, human trafficking or any other unlawful conduct" at its sites – particularly when large construction projects lead to many workers staying in temporary housing.

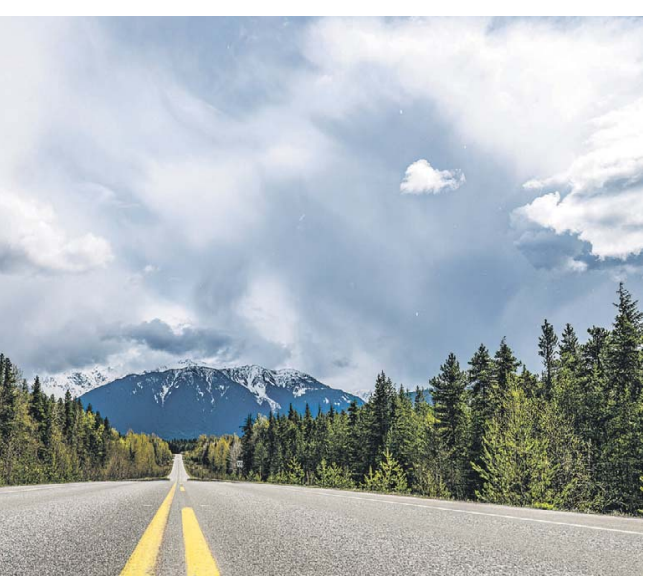
"Anyone who violates these policies is subject to disciplinary action, including immediate removal from a project and termination," she wrote in a statement to The Globe.

In her small Anishinaabe community, just over 300 kilometres northeast of Thunder Bay, Chief Sheri Taylor of Ginoogaming First Nation has been inundated by smoke from recent wildfires nearby.

But she wants to be clear, she said: Her First Nation of about 1,030 people had already been under a local state of emergency since this past May because of "the cyclical issues" connected with missing and murdered women and girls.

"We have warned the provincial government and Ottawa about how our community – right next to the highway that links to Manitoba and the rest of the country, right next to a gold mine they're making profit from – is vulnerable to human trafficking. Over and over again, we have made that clear," she said.

"We need all Canadians to be aware and to stop treating our women like their lives don't matter. We know awareness is key. And I'm hoping when people see this report that's a step for that to actually happen now."



B.C.'s 'Highway of Tears' earned its name from decades worth of crimes against women. SEBASTIEN ST-JEAN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Every May 5, advocates mark Red Dress Day to demand action for missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. SAMMY KOGAN/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

EDITORIAL

ANDREW SAUNDERS
PRESIDENT AND CEO

DAVID WALMSLEY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The subject who is truly loyal to the chief magistrate will neither advise nor submit to arbitrary measures - Junius

Ontario blows fiscal smoke on firefighting

Wildfires have become a sadly predictable part of life in Ontario – and so, too, has the province's failure to budget for them properly. Last year, Ontario allocated $135-million for its emergency forest firefighting fund, but had spent $271-million by the time fire season was over, a gap of $136-million. The year before that, the budgeted amount was $36-million short of actual costs. The year before that, it was $63-million short.

Since 2018, when Premier Doug Ford was elected, the costs have only once been less than budgeted. The money always comes – no politician is going to say they can't find the dollars to fight fires that threaten to destroy communities.

"We'd never underfund our firefighters. Never, ever, ever," Mr. Ford said earlier this month as 150 fire crews battled 180 wildfires in Ontario, forcing many communities to evacuate.

The problem is, coming up with the money after fires are burning is playing catch-up, addressing a problem when it has literally become a raging inferno, by which point there is often a scramble for personnel and resources.

There will always be wildfires. The question is, is it better to invest in preparing for them to minimize the damage they cause or scramble to fight them when they are already raging? The answer is obvious.

Investing more in preparation would help ensure the province has the people and tools needed to fight wildfires.

Part of this is proper staffing. It's normal that firefighters from other parts of Canada, and even other countries, help battle fires when they break out. But as fires become more frequent, and widespread, relying on slack in the system is no longer the safe assumption it used to be.

The Ontario union that represents wildfire firefighters says the 156 fire crews that have been battling blazes in recent weeks, each made up of four to six people, is well short of the 200 crews the province used to have. Spending money on prevention could help hire and train the firefighters needed when blazes erupt.

Mr. Ford's announcement last week that the province will spend $650-million to buy five new helicopters and six water bombers to help fight wildfires is welcome news.

Ordering these planes is investing in preparation. But why is this decision being made when smoke fills the sky and communities are fleeing wildfires? It's not as if these kinds of shortages come as a surprise. Last year, three water bombers had to be temporarily grounded because of a lack of pilots.

More investment in preparedness and prevention could also be used to run evacuation drills with at-risk communities so the process can be completed much more efficiently than the often haphazard race we have seen in several northern communities this past week.

Eric Kennedy, an expert on forest fire management at York University in Toronto, compares wildfire budgeting approaches across Canada with a car owner that tries to save on oil changes or tire rotation and then has to shell out for a tow truck when the vehicle breaks down.

He suggests provinces look to B.C.'s investments in risk reduction, including controlled burns, and FireSmart, a program to make homes more resilient, as well as the Whitehorse fuel break, a project to remove fuel-like trees from the landscape, as examples of good practices for all to follow.

Investing in prevention and mitigation efforts pays off in the long run. A study conducted by U.S. researchers and published last month in the journal Science found that for every US$1 spent on things such as forest thinning and prescribed burns saved US$3.73 in wildfire damages.

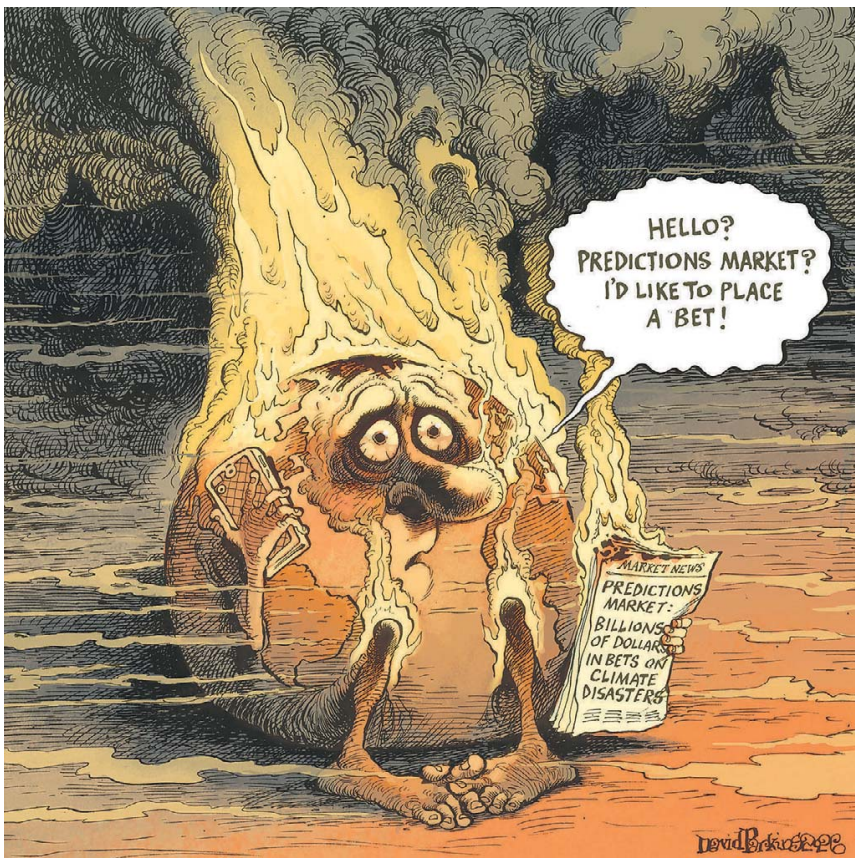
How much should the province budget?

Ted Hsu, the Ontario Liberal critic for energy, mines, natural resources and forestry, has suggested using the average amount spent through the emergency fund over the past three years. That would produce a budget of $215-million, significantly more than this year's budget of $150-million.

However significant that number might seem, it will be much less than the current costs wildfires are exacting.

The Canadian Climate Institute estimates that the health care costs of forest fires in Ontario between June 4 and 8 to be $1.28-billion in Ontario. That is only one week, in one province. Wildland fire season is still months from ending, and the total bill is yet to be tallied.

Mr. Ford is right that the money has been found when fires broke out. But pretending it doesn't matter when it is being spent, and on what, is just blowing smoke.


HELLO? PREDICTIONS MARKET? I'D LIKE TO PLACE A BET!
MARKET NEWS
PREDICTIONS MARKET: BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN BETS ON CLIMATE DISASTERS
David Parkins

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LOSE YOURSELF

Re "Like a bad ex, Donald Trump is accidentally making Canada become its best self" (Opinion, July 25): Reducing interprovincial trade barriers and dairy supply management no doubt would have positive effects on Canada's bottom line, but would they make for a stronger Canadian society?

The emasculation of the Canadian Wheat Board by the Stephen Harper government put nails into the coffin for the Western family farm; the destruction of supply management would have a similar effect on the family dairy farm. Does supply management actually raise costs, or simply apply costs to the marketplace instead of dispersing them through subsidies and taxation as in the United States?

Society struggles to compensate for the tendency of corporate wealth to travel up to a small proportion of the public, the bosses and the elite. Canada becomes "its best self" by becoming more self-reliant, but it must beware of losing its diverse social spectrum of mutual support and respect based, to a considerable extent, upon the complex structure of its economy.

Nicholas Tracy Fredericton

PLAN FOR PENSIONS

Re "Workplace pension plans have failed most Canadians" (Report on Business, July 22): The problem isn't that most public sector workers have decent pension vehicles, which they pay into throughout their working lives, it is that the private sector has retreated from a meaningful role in adequate workplace pension sponsorship. These employers spoke against a bigger Canada Pension Plan, arguing that personal savings and expanding workplace pensions would build a strong system for Canadian workers.

Perhaps what is needed is a bigger CPP that provides better pension coverage. This would remove risk from private sector employers, while offering a system for workers to fund decent pensions for their retirement years.

Paul Moist Winnipeg

It is revealing to consider the dramatic differences between pension plans offered in the public sector versus the private sector.

The Canadian government should seek to level the playing field in the interests of all Canadians. It should provide a pension plan tax incentive. For example, give private companies tax breaks for starting new plans and give slightly reduced tax incentives each year they maintain it, up to a maximum number of years.

Brian Strader Oakville, Ont.

Many large Canadian employers have moved to less lucrative defined contribution pension plans over the years, and many smaller companies choose not to offer any plans to their employees.

Employers understandably are concerned about the cost and commitment. For a lot of successful companies, it hasn't been a priority.

In 2015, the Ontario government proposed a universal pension plan that would require enrolment of all employees in the province not in a workplace pension plan. It wasn't implemented, but likely contributed to the federal government expanding required contributions to the Canada Pension Plan. This expansion has current costs, but benefits workers in the long run.

But the Ontario proposal is still a great idea. Too many workers will retire without workplace pensions. Current levels of CPP and Old Age Security will leave many Canadians well short of comfortable retirements.

Tony Hooper Toronto

BIGGER PROBLEM

Re "Chinese EVs are a bundle of security risks in a metal box. Do we really want them?" (Report on Business, July 21): You rightly flag the data security risks of Chinese electric vehicles, which collect and transmit location and personal information.

Yet a key irony goes unmentioned: Canadians already surrender far more intimate data every day through our phones and apps from domestic companies. They can track everywhere we go, what we buy, what we browse, where we park.

Both sources erode our personal privacy. One just feels more foreign.

True privacy protection demands we address surveillance from every source.

Bryan Laskey Cambridge, Ont.

ANSWERS NEEDED

Re "Health Canada did not consult inspectors' work in review of plasma donor's death" (July 23): The tragedy of this death is magnified by the remarkable inconsistencies that have been reported.

It defies common sense that a young person would suffer a "temporally coincident" and unrelated "no linkage" cardiac arrest during an invasive procedure, whether or not they had an underlying condition. That known procedural deficits seemingly were not considered adds to the mystery.

Plasma donation is critical and public participation requires confidence in the process. Might I suggest a public inquiry or at least a coroner's inquest?

D.M.C. Walker
MD; professor emeritus, emergency medicine, Queen's University; Kingston

WORK WHERE?

Re "The mental health benefits of going to work" (Editorial, July 21) and "Who are Canada's big city leavers? Mainly 25 to 44-year-olds, with young children" (Report on Business, July 21): Viable work from home for large numbers of white-collar workers is a recent phenomenon catalyzed by maturing technologies and pandemic lockdowns. It became obvious that, in fact, highly distributed work forces can be productive.

People and families relocate for many reasons. Cost of housing is important, but so are communities seen as more social, interactive and safe than, say, Yonge and King streets in Toronto. Current tensions around management practices reflect older paradigms. We're learning that many people urbanized for work not because they wanted to, but because they had to.

Generational change is afoot, I suggest. The best and the brightest will have options that were not available during my working years. Successful companies and communities will be so because they recognize change, integrate new approaches and, most importantly, regard flexibility and openness as key attributes.

John Madill Oshawa, Ont.

I found this editorial unintentionally amusing.

The seven years I spent driving across Highway 401 in Ontario was not good for my mental health. I consider long commutes a staggering waste of time and money. And for workers with children, there are extra costs for daycare.

To these factors, we can add the environmental impact of all the cars on all the highways and roads and the accompanying gridlock.

To the point about loneliness: If someone needs people, they can work from a coffee shop or library, or spend time with friends and family when they are not spending time on a hideous commute.

It's clear to me that being in the office has nothing to do with productivity and everything to do with corporate control. Managers want their workers available to boss around.

If employees are working remotely and being productive, someone might realize managers aren't actually needed.

Christopher White Hamilton

HAVE YOU HEARD THE ONE...

Re "Dad jokes may be the best jokes we can deploy" (First Person, July 24): This describes well the various good and bad reactions to bad and good jokes.

But the question remains: When is a joke a dad joke?

When it becomes apparent.

Paul Rapoport Hamilton

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OPINION

We must focus on extending healthspan

We can't fix everyone when they're broken or sick, but we can do a lot more to prevent chronic illnesses and painful conditions

ANDRÉ PICARD

OPINION

People around the world are living longer. But they're also living those additional years in poor health, a "morbidity gap" which is growing fastest in wealthy countries like Canada and the United States.

That is the paradoxical conclusion of new research published in the most recent edition of the journal Lancet Public Health.

"Progress in healthy aging should be measured not only in lifespan, but in healthspan," said Christopher Murray, the lead researcher, and director of the Institute for Health Metrics and Education (IHME) at the University of Washington School of Public Health in Seattle.

IHME researchers analyzed data from the Global Burden of Disease Study from 1990 to 2003.

In that time period, essentially a generation, global life expectancy increased to 73.8 years from 64.6 years, a difference of 9.2 years.

But, over that time, healthy life expectancy rose to 63.1 years from 55.9 years, an increase of only 7.2 years.

Stated another way, globally, the morbidity gap rose to 10.7 years in 2023 from 8.8 years in 1990.

In wealthy countries the morbidity gap is even more dramatic than the global average: 14 years in the U.S., 13.9 years in Australia, and 13.7 years in Canada.

Practically speaking, that means Canadians can expect to spend about 17 per cent of their lives in poor health. Women live longer than men, but also spend more years in poor health.

Driving the years of poor health are a handful of common conditions: Musculoskeletal disorders like lower back pain, mental health conditions like depression and anxiety, hearing loss, and injuries from falls.

It's not just the big killers like cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease taking the pleasure out of life, but non-fatal chronic conditions and disabilities that leave people living in constant pain, and often in isolation.

The data tell us that we have become exceptionally good at extending lifespan, but far less successful at extending healthspan.

A good deal of this can be explained by our approach to health care, where we spend profligately on medicine, and in a miserly fashion on prevention.

The greatest contributors to shortened lifespan and healthspan are lifestyle factors: Harmful behaviours like smoking and excess drug and alcohol consumption, inactivity, poor nutrition, and trauma (*both* mental and physical).

And, of course, we can't neglect the role of socio-economic factors like income, housing, education, and physical environment, which often fuel poor lifestyle "choices."

There are important lessons here for health systems, especially those largely funded publicly, as in Canada.

The main one is that we need to do a better job of prevention, and of long-term disease management.

We can't fix everyone when they're broken, or heal them when they're sick, but we can do a lot more to prevent chronic illnesses and painful conditions.

A striking example of this is lower back pain, which researchers identified as the number one cause of life-altering poor health.

In our sickness care system, we provide a lot of disease-specific care that is medically and technologically superb. But we tend to neglect what really matters to people – to have the ability and capacity to participate in everyday life.

It's great if your blood pressure, cholesterol and A1C levels are on target, but it's more important if you can get yourself out of bed, go for a walk, pick up your grandchildren, and engage in conversation with your friends.

One of the main reasons people are turning to options like medical assistance in dying is that they are tired of living in pain, or joylessly.

They want more quality of life, not just quantity of life.

These days, there is a lot of focus on longevity. But that needs to be amended to healthy longevity.

As we age, a good question to ask ourselves is: What do we want the last 10 or 15 years of our lives to look like? Do we want to live them in pain, misery and isolation?

The way to avoid that is not expecting miracle cures, but to take preventive action earlier in life like remaining active (physically and mentally), eating well, avoiding harmful behaviours like smoking and drinking, and remaining connected to family and friends. And the health system has an important role to play.

As U.S. president John F. Kennedy famously said way back in 1963: "It is not enough for a great nation merely to have added new years to life. Our objective must also be to add new life to those years."

How India's Gen Z protesters taught Narendra Modi a lesson

SANJAY RUPARELIA NEW DELHI

OPINION

The Jarislowsky Democracy Chair at Toronto Metropolitan University, and senior fellow of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada

Cockroach Janata Party supporters celebrate after the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Saturday. PRIYANSHU SINGH/REUTERS

A week is a long time in politics: events catch governments by surprise. The old quip was on fierce display in India over the past week.

On July 20, tens of thousands of students marched on parliament from Jantar Mantar, a famed protest site in the heart of New Delhi. Their demand: the resignation of the Union Education Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan, for failing to protect the integrity of national medical school entrance exams in May. The Bharatiya Janata Party-led government sent emissaries to talk with the putative leaders of the protests, the Cockroach Janata Party, which began as a satirical online meme two months ago. Yet the mobilization only grew. Police barricaded streets, closed metro stations and limited internet connectivity, deploying batons and tear gas to quell the mounting crowds. But their actions simply emboldened the youth who had gathered across caste, religion and class. A midnight video by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, promising to set up fast-track courts to investigate the exam scandal, failed to break the tide. On July 25, Mr. Pradhan resigned, almost unimaginable a month ago.

What drove this momentous uprising? And what does it portend?

The genesis of the CJP is remarkable. In May, the Chief Justice of India described unemployed youth criticizing state institutions on social media as parasites and cockroaches. A student studying in Boston, Abhijit Dipke, responded by asking: "What if all the cockroaches came together?" Within a fortnight, more than 20 million followed the newly created party on Instagram, more than double the BJP. Government efforts to block the account faltered in the courts.

In early June, Mr. Dipke returned to Delhi to launch a protest. A well-known activist, Sonam Wangchuk, began an indefinite fast in solidarity. Several other students joined him. Protests emerged in major cities across the country as thousands of youth streamed into the capital.

Several grievances fuelled their anger. First, the government refused to accept political responsibility for the medical exams leak, despite similar breaches in recent years. Millions of students and their families make huge financial sacrifices to prepare. The odds of succeeding are extreme. Leaks undermine fairness and create profound distrust.

Second, their desperation reflects a sober reality. India remains the fastest growing large economy in the world. Yet its capital-intensive nature generates few productive opportunities. Officially, the youth unemployment rate exceeds 16 per cent. The on-the-ground reality is severe underemployment. The majority of youth work in the informal sector and digitized gig economy, with many handling tasks far below their qualifications and skills, especially university graduates.

Finally, the protests crystallized mounting anger toward the BJP government in general. Its refusal to fire the education minister reflected a deeper pattern of centralized unaccountable power between elections. The party lost its parliamentary majority in 2024, returning to office as leader of the National Democratic Alliance. Yet the setback failed to temper its will to power. The controversial deletion of more than 60 million voters from the electoral rolls in recent state polls, most of which the BJP and its allies won handsomely, sowed growing anxiety.

The youth mobilization in India revived images of their Gen Z counterparts toppling governments in Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh in recent years. India is unlikely to join their ranks. Nonetheless, several lessons emerge.

First, while opposition parties have defeated the ruling party in various state elections, mass social mobilization has posed a sharper challenge to the BJP in recent years. Protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act, which violated the secular foundation of the constitution, delayed its implementation from 2019 to 2024. More successful was the farmers' agitation in 2021, which forced the government to suspend contentious agricultural reforms.

Second, these recent protests represent a greater threat to the BJP. Many youth flocked to Mr. Modi during his rise to power, given his digital savvy, sheer energy and promise to create millions of good jobs. Twelve years later, they are demanding better prospects, competent institutions and government accountability with creativity, humour and defiance. The ruling party cannot dismiss them as anti-national or foreign puppets. Its political authority has cracked.

Finally, marches, protests and sit-ins embody democratic citizenship. But realizing the aspirations voiced by India's youth requires opposition parties to reform their organizations and transcend partisan differences, and public servants to carry out their responsibilities. Only then can they channel the demands of the street into effective policies and revitalize democratic governance.

This is an Indian story. Yet its ingredients are common in many democracies today. Governments should heed the lessons.

The UN's Refugee Convention finds itself at a crossroads 75 years later

MICHAEL BARUTCISKI

OPINION

A senior fellow at the Macdonald-Laurier Institute and a professor at York University's Glendon School of Public and International Affairs

Seventy-five years ago, Western diplomats gathered in Geneva to address the displacement crises of the early Cold War. Signed on July 28, 1951, the resulting Refugee Convention marked the first time widespread support was achieved for legally binding obligations that balance refugee rights with state interests.

But decades of progressively expansive judicial interpretations have drifted far from that original compromise, transforming the world's primary refugee treaty – which openly accounted for state security and stability – into a vehicle for uncontrolled mass migration.

If well-intentioned policy makers fail to introduce legislative solutions that can temper excessively generous court decisions, and are not able to manage displacement humanely within realistic limits, anxious host populations will solve the dilemma themselves – by electing political insurgents who will gladly dismantle the system if the establishment refuses to mend it.

As an instrument of the Cold War, the convention's provisions focused heavily on the political concerns of Western states, particularly since the communist bloc was not invited to Geneva. But reinterpretation of the adopted norms accelerated around the time the Berlin Wall fell. And in this new liberal internationalist climate, academics and advocates began arguing that the treaty's main purpose was the advancement of refugee rights. Canadians have arguably played a disproportionate role in driving this shift.

The resulting interpretations would be unrecognizable to the drafters. In 1951, the treaty architects carefully limited key notions like "persecution," while deliberately avoiding commitments regarding whether the obligations should apply to mass flows or war refugees.

Today, that careful balance has been upended by a unidimensional, rights-based focus aimed at maximizing the potential beneficiaries. While the treaty's text has remained essentially unchanged since initial geographic and temporal limits were lifted in 1967, judicial decisions have fundamentally expanded the strict individual persecution standard. By turning it into a broad umbrella for general human rights violations, we have bypassed the original intention by bringing both mass flows and conflict-driven displacement under its purview.

Most citizens in Western democracies want to help foreigners fleeing extreme mistreatment, but no state can commit to providing refuge to limitless numbers. This tension sits at the heart of current controversies with the Refugee Convention.

For the academic and legal establishments, however, refugee law has been reconceived as a form of "surrogate protection" for anyone emigrating from a country with systemic human rights problems – a revolutionary approach to international solidarity. Are Western societies truly prepared to welcome large populations from every country currently experiencing conflict? If we interpret human rights broadly, many people worldwide could claim to be at risk.

If interpreted in a way that implies we must examine everyone's claim to protection, the Refugee Convention indirectly promotes de facto open borders. Paradoxically, the system avoids collapse only because states rely on restrictive visa regimes and rigorous offshore interdiction. This unspoken part reflects the underlying hypocrisy.

In Canada, this conundrum is reflected in the historic backlog at the Immigration and Refugee Board, alongside unprecedented strain on local resources. Overwhelmed municipal shelter systems expose the daily disconnect between high-minded policy and the reality of reception infrastructure – with the result being the slow erosion of public goodwill.

The 75th anniversary of the Refugee Convention offers a critical opportunity to change this unsustainable trajectory. Today, the greatest threat to refugee dignity is not domestic xenophobia, though societies must remain vigilant against it. It may be a maximalist and activist reading of the historic treaty pushed by open-border advocates that has stifled candid, pragmatic debate.

Refugee protection can only survive if it retains the democratic support of host populations. Without it, public goodwill will continue to dry up, leaving governments to scramble with short-sighted, improvised burden-shifting schemes.

Crucially, sovereign states are not permanently bound by expansive judicial decisions, even if it is reasonable for the interpretation of international treaty law to evolve. National parliaments possess the authority to amend domestic legislation to clarify ambiguous legal terms. By codifying precise thresholds for asylum, most legislatures can effectively override a judiciary and restore the structural parameters originally intended by the treaty.

The central predicament is that few political leaders in the West possess the courage to confront the contradiction characterizing modern refugee law. Instead, mainstream politicians maintain a facade of humanitarian concern, failing to recognize that sustainable policy requires empathy in both directions – toward needy foreigners, *and* toward the citizens asked to absorb them.

LIFE & ARTS

At Twelfth Night, the park is the star

Canadian Stage's outdoor production accommodates the unpredictability of the weather and its audience

AISLING MURPHY
THEATRE

Twelfth Night
AT THE HIGH PARK AMPHITHEATRE IN TORONTO

Adapted and directed by Gregory Prest
Performed by Caroline Toal, Ghazal Azarbad, Farhang Ghajar, Rick Roberts, Navtej Sandhu, Mike Shara, Steven Sutcliffe and Justin Otto

Caroline Toal and Farhang Ghajar star in Twelfth Night, directed and adapted by Gregory Prest with an emphasis on the play's central love triangle, at Toronto's Dream in High Park. PHOTOS BY DAHLIA KATZ

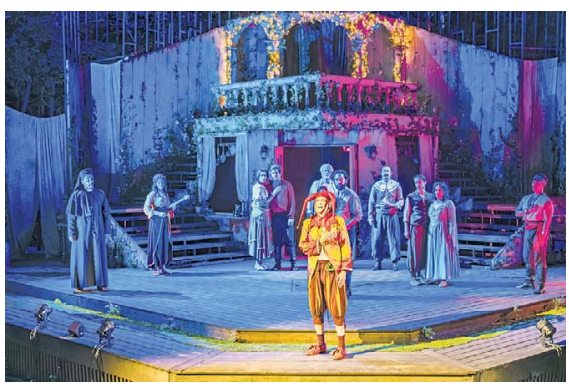
Whoever coined the truism that you should never make theatre with animals or children – no matter what, they'll upstage the other actors – likely never attended Dream in High Park.

Every year, thousands of Torontonians, their kids and their dogs travel to Toronto's West End for an outdoor production of a play by William Shakespeare. Invariably, their experience is shaped by the conditions of High Park: Is it too hot? Too chilly? Is a squirrel intent on stealing the snacks you so carefully tucked away for later? Is it raining? (Or, in the case of this year's scheduled opening night, so smoky that the performance had to be cancelled?)

As such, the challenge for a given Dream's director is twofold: First, they must craft a show that pleases the Shakespeare purists in the amphitheatre. That's no small feat, given the chosen play must be pared down into a 90-minute cut. But they also have to leave enough flexibility for the production to adapt to whatever the conditions of the park may be on a given day.

Twelfth Night, directed and adapted by Gregory Prest with an emphasis on the play's central love triangle, skillfully walks the line between silly and solemn. Prest's cut is stronger in its second half: Newcomers to Shakespeare's comedy may struggle to keep up with crucial plot points, as well as the play's many, many names, in the beginning.

But on the whole, the production sings. (Literally, sometimes: A few of sound designer and composer Olivia Wheeler's songs sound like sea shanties, while others are more contemplative, underscored by a lilting lute.) Actors Caroline Toal and Ghazal Azarbad volley their heartsick lines as if competing at a pickleball tournament. Mike Shara, Navtej Sandhu and Justin Otto, meanwhile, strike gold in *Twelfth Night*'s funnier, less anguished interludes.



Steven Sutcliffe plays Clown Feste, who welcomes viewers into the amphitheatre with a prayer to the heavens – no rain, please, no rain! – and the assertion that 'love is merely a madness,' nabbed from Rosalind in William Shakespeare's As You Like It.

The story's much the same as it's always been, minus its opening. "If music be the food of love, play on" is replaced here with a number of quotes from Shakespeare's other plays. Clown Feste (Steven Sutcliffe) welcomes us into the amphitheatre with a prayer to the heavens – no rain, please, no rain! – and the assertion that "love is merely a madness," nabbed from Rosalind in *As You Like It*.

We soon meet Viola (Toal, who recycles the warmth that made her Anne Shirley so irresistible at last year's Stratford Festival), stranded in the mythical land of Illyria and separated from her twin brother Sebastian (Ori Black). Viola soon disguises herself as a man, working as a page for a duke named Orsino (and with whom she quickly plummets in love).

The problem, of course, is that Orsino loves Olivia (Azarbad), an Illyrian noble's daughter, who in turn loves "Cesario" – a.k.a. Viola. The love triangle then twists in on itself, riffing on the fluidity of gender and sexuality with a surprisingly modern bent (and with hardly a word changed by Prest).

Trouble, meanwhile, is brewing in Olivia's court: The cantankerous Malvolio (Rick Roberts) has found himself the target of a series of mean-spirited pranks by Sir Andrew Aguecheek (Otto), Sir Toby Belch (Shara) and Maria (Sandhu). The trio of tricksters devises a plan to make Malvolio think Olivia has fallen madly in love with him – in fact, she's repulsed by the grump, and even more so by the garish yellow stockings he's been duped into wearing in her presence.

Prest stages the work, delicious in its complicated tangle of false identities and unrequited crushes, with a light touch. His interjections are minimal, and especially past the midway point, his adaptation hardly shows its seams. A few production elements could be smoother: Wheeler's sound design fuzzes the actors' diction into near-obscurity at times, while costume designer Sim Suzer's choice of hat for Feste completely blocks Sutcliffe's face whenever he turns left or right. But by and large, the fizzy romcom goes off without a hitch.

If there's one thing I enjoyed most about *Twelfth Night*, however, it's the ways in which the production accommodates the vast array of audiences who might happen to stumble across the High Park Amphitheatre.

On Sunday evening – rain-free! – I watched as young children happily sketched Suzer's set and costumes, eavesdropping as they asked intelligent questions about the storylines they didn't understand. I smelled picnics from some of Toronto's most beloved dining establishments (and somewhat regretted not picking up a pizza from Blondies on my way to the park). I smiled as young infants fell asleep in their parents' arms, and as hounds barked happily on the surrounding trails.

Don't make theatre with kids and dogs? Please. At Dream in High Park, the park's the thing – and on this occasion, the play's not half-bad, either.

Twelfth Night runs until Sept. 6.

Carly Simon reveals she's been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease

MARIA SHERMAN NEW YORK

You're So Vain singer Carly Simon has been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and was recently treated for skin cancer, the singer shared in a statement provided to the Associated Press.

"So many people have written to me, kindly wondering about my relative silence, asking how I am and what I have been doing. The truth is, I've been learning how to live with Parkinson's disease," Simon's statement on Monday read.

The singer, 83, had been experiencing arthritis in one of her hips and both her knees, resulting in replacement surgeries for those three joints. But her mobility continued to decline. At times, she said, she could not walk without "considerable help."

"My family and I knew that something more was going on. After an extensive evaluation at the Mayo Clinic, I was diagnosed with Parkinson's," she said.

Carly Simon, who has been diagnosed with Parkinson's, a neurological disease, says 'It has taken me some time to understand the diagnosis, to adjust to it.' CHARLES SYKES/ASSOCIATED PRESS

"It has taken me some time to understand the diagnosis, to adjust to it, and to decide how much I wanted to say about it publicly," she explained. "Parkinson's is different for everyone, and it can be unpredictable. Some days I'm so tired I can't get the day moving at all. On others, it gives me a little more room to move, think, work, and feel like myself."

Parkinson's is a neurological disease that robs people of control over their movements. It typically starts with tremors and is characterized by slow movement, a shuffling gait, stiff limbs, balance problems and slurred speech. About one million Americans are living with Parkinson's, and 10 million people worldwide, the Parkinson's Foundation estimates. It usually appears after age 60, though it sometimes develops before age 50. The exact cause isn't known, but Parkinson's develops when cells that produce one of the brain's chemical messengers – dopamine – begin to deteriorate and die.

There is no cure, but there are treatments including medications that affect dopamine levels and a surgically implanted tremor-blocking device. Patients also can benefit from physical and occupational therapy.

"I began treatment, including taking medication to help with stiffness and other symptoms," Simon said. "There is no tidy or predictable schedule to the illness. It does not consult my calendar before deciding what kind of day I am going to have."

She also shared that she was treated for basal cell carcinoma, a common form of skin cancer, on her face at the same time. She had surgery, and the cancer was removed, "but the surgery affected my appearance and made me more self-conscious about being seen in public," she said.

She said music has been a salve, and on Aug. 14, she will release *Comes in Waves*, her first album of original songs since 2008.

"Working on the music gave shape to days that did not always have much shape. It gave me somewhere to go without having to leave the room," she continued. "It reminded me that illness can change your life without becoming the whole of your life."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ILLUSTRATION BY CATHERINE CHAN

My scar is a reminder of the body's resilience

FIRST PERSON

After I almost died from a disease, all I wanted to do was cover up the link I will never be able to sever. Now, I embrace it, **Renee Alkass writes**

I can remember the first scar I ever got.

It happened as I assume most children's first scars happen. By accident. My right elbow scraped the pavement, blood rushed down my forearm and into the gravel. Now, I can barely see the scar, but it's the memory of tumbling that I will never forget – of being okay one minute and not okay the next.

Throughout my 27 years, I've acquired many more scars. There are a few on my fingers from my sloppy kitchen knife skills, one on my thigh from a nasty fall while figure skating, and another on my foot, courtesy of my moody cat. However, I have one scar that is the most prominent. It's the one everyone thinks is a big, fat hickey.

It was given to me eight years ago when a mysterious autoimmune disease gnawed at my body. For reasons my doctors couldn't figure out, I was dying. After three months of persistent upper respiratory infections, weight loss and failed healing, both of my lungs collapsed. The hospital ICU team quickly realized I needed to be intubated and put on the most extreme form of life support: ECMO. Medically known as Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation, this machine can temporarily work as the heart or lungs, taking over to supply oxygen and circulate blood. In cases of cardiac arrest, heart failure or severe respiratory failure, such as the one I experienced, ECMO is a last resort.

My doctors made a choppy incision in my external jugular vein to insert a tube the size of a garden hose. Blood pumped out of my body and into ECMO's mechanical body. There, it removed carbon dioxide and added oxygen before returning it to my circulatory system. The machine saved my life and for that, I am eternally grateful. But the scar I'm left with feels like a link I will never be able to sever – it will forever be a reminder of the worst thing that's ever happened to me.

The scar has taken an odd shape. It appears to be the work of a young child learning to sew. It's jagged, zigzagged and twisted. It never healed flat and remains raised, almost as though the skin refuses to forget. I've always been annoyed at the colour. It's gone from dark red to murky brown, like I've forgotten to wipe the dirt off my neck.

My mom tells me to embrace my battle wound. To flaunt it rather than fear it. "It's a part of you now," she says. "It's the thing that makes you, you."

I was annoyed that she was right. My scars are proof of life. They are a part of my story now and I can't unwrite the past. But overcoming insecurities is never easy.

After being discharged from my month-long stay at the hospital, I refused to wear my hair up. I didn't want the world to see my neck. I could tell when someone was staring and I tried to avoid their curiosity altogether. If someone dared to ask what happened, I'd say, "it's a long story," or I'd dodge the question entirely. Avoiding the truth was much easier than facing it head-on.

But this past year, something in me has changed. Maybe it's all the therapy I've paid for, or simply the act of aging, but I've become less obsessed with hiding and more focused on releasing. I began to think: why should I carry the tension of hiding something I'll never be able to erase?

Just the other day, with my hair slicked back into a tight bun, a new friend asked about my ECMO scar. For the first time, I decided to tell my entire truth. In the middle of a busy coffee shop, I rambled on about my hospital experience, and to my surprise, their response was gentle and encouraging. I could see the sparkle of awe in their eyes. It was almost as though my scar had become a tiny reminder of how the body can survive despite it all.

And I don't think there is anything more freeing than that.

Renee Alkass lives in Simcoe County, Ont.

First Person is a daily personal piece submitted by readers. Have a story to tell? See our guidelines at tgam.ca/essayguide.

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION

8	6	9	2	1	7	4	3	5
1	5	7	9	4	3	6	2	8
3	2	4	5	6	8	7	1	9
2	8	5	4	7	9	3	6	1
6	4	1	8	3	5	9	7	2
9	7	3	1	2	6	8	5	4
5	1	6	3	9	4	2	8	7
4	3	8	7	5	2	1	9	6
7	9	2	6	8	1	5	4	3

TODAY'S KENKEN SOLUTION

600× 6	1− 3	10× 2	5	5− 1	4 4
5	4	2÷ 1	2	6	8+ 3
4	5	7+ 6	1	3	2
6+ 3	2÷ 2	4	11+ 6	5	7+ 1
2	5− 1	2− 5	1− 3	40× 4	6
1	6	3	4	2	5

WORLD FORECAST

	TODAY		TOMORROW		THURSDAY	
AMSTERDAM	26/18	S	29/21	S	26/18	PC
ATHENS	37/27	S	34/24	S	31/24	S
BANGKOK	30/26	T	30/26	T	29/26	T
BEIJING	35/26	T	35/27	T	35/27	T
BERLIN	23/16	SH	30/19	S	36/23	S
BRUSSELS	30/19	S	35/21	S	31/18	PC
COPENHAGEN	21/17	S	24/19	PC	24/18	S
FRANKFURT	27/16	S	33/20	S	36/20	S
HONG KONG	28/25	T	26/25	T	26/26	T
JERUSALEM	31/20	S	32/22	S	34/22	S
LAS VEGAS	43/30	S	43/30	S	43/31	S
LONDON	30/19	PC	32/20	S	28/17	S
LOS ANGELES	33/21	S	34/21	S	33/21	S
MADRID	37/23	S	38/23	S	38/24	S
MIAMI	33/26	T	34/26	T	35/27	PC
MOSCOW	27/16	T	18/16	R	22/16	SH
NEW DELHI	34/27	T	33/27	T	33/28	T
NEW YORK	26/21	T	25/20	T	25/20	SH
NICE	30/26	S	31/27	S	32/27	S
ORLANDO	35/26	T	35/26	T	32/25	T
PARIS	33/22	S	38/22	S	33/19	PC
PHOENIX	42/33	S	43/34	S	44/35	S
ROME	36/25	S	37/26	S	39/26	S
SAN FRANCISCO	18/13	S	18/13	S	17/12	S
SEOUL	32/25	T	31/24	PC	31/25	SH
SINGAPORE	30/27	T	29/25	T	30/27	T
SYDNEY	21/10	S	17/7	S	16/9	S
TOKYO	29/24	R	32/24	T	31/26	SH
WASHINGTON	30/22	T	29/23	SH	29/21	SH

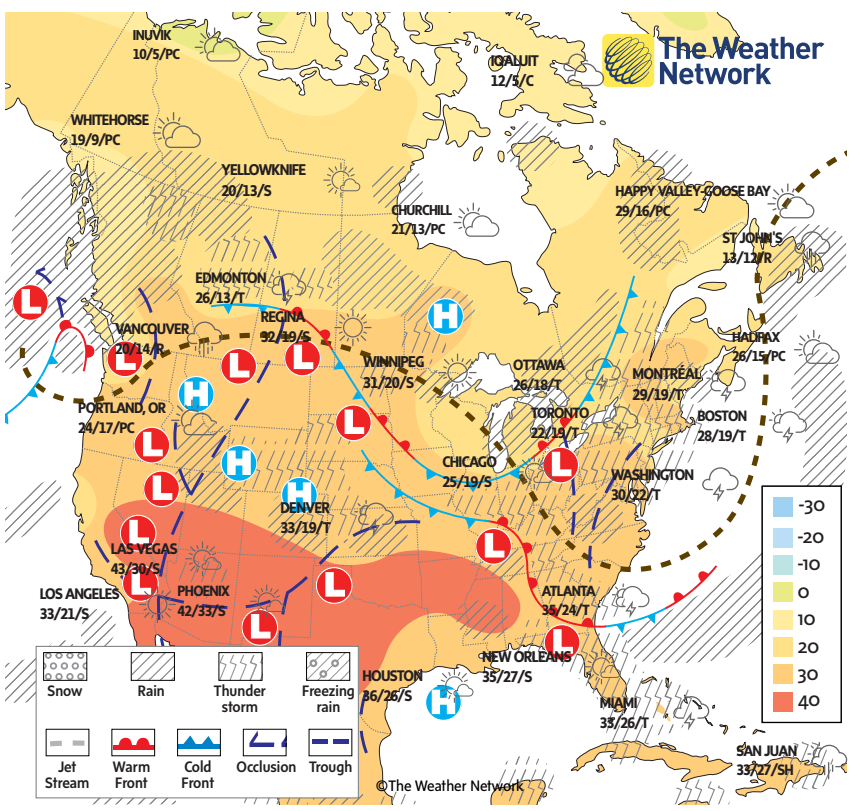
NATIONAL FORECAST

	TODAY		TOMORROW		THURSDAY	
BANFF	24/10	S	23/9	S	26/11	S
BARRIE	24/17	T	25/15	S	26/16	S
BRANDON	30/17	S	32/20	S	29/17	T
CALGARY	29/12	S	27/13	S	27/14	S
CHARLOTTETOWN	24/15	S	23/16	S	20/17	C
CHICOUTIMI	24/17	T	23/16	R	25/16	PC
CHURCHILL	21/13	PC	21/13	SH	17/11	SH
CORNER BROOK	24/14	C	22/14	PC	24/16	PC
CORNWALL	27/19	T	21/17	R	24/17	R
EDMONTON	26/13	T	23/12	S	23/14	PC
HALIFAX	26/15	PC	22/16	PC	18/17	R
HAMILTON	24/18	T	26/17	SH	27/17	S
HUNTSVILLE	23/16	T	25/15	S	27/16	S
IQALUIT	12/5	C	12/6	PC	12/5	SH
JASPER	20/9	SH	22/8	SH	25/10	PC
KELOWNA	28/13	S	28/13	S	31/16	S
KINGSTON	25/19	T	23/18	R	25/19	SH
LONDON	26/17	T	25/15	PC	27/16	S
MONTRÉAL	29/19	T	23/17	SH	25/18	SH
NIAGARA FALLS	24/19	T	24/18	SH	26/18	S
NORTH BAY	22/14	R	24/14	S	25/16	S
OTTAWA	26/18	T	23/17	R	25/17	SH
PRINCE GEORGE	16/7	T	19/9	PC	22/12	PC
PETERBOROUGH	23/18	T	26/17	PC	27/16	S
QUÉBEC	27/16	T	23/16	PC	22/16	C
REGINA	33/18	S	32/17	S	30/18	SH
SASKATOON	30/17	S	28/14	S	27/15	S
SAULT STE MARIE	24/15	S	23/15	S	27/18	S
SAINT JOHN	22/14	S	23/16	PC	21/18	PC
SEPT-ÎLES	16/14	PC	16/14	SH	17/14	C
ST JOHN'S	13/12	R	14/12	C	14/12	PC
SUDBURY	24/14	SH	25/14	S	28/17	S
THUNDER BAY	24/15	S	25/15	T	24/18	PC
THOMPSON	25/16	T	27/17	T	26/15	S
TORONTO	22/19	T	22/18	SH	25/19	PC
VAL-D'OR	20/13	SH	23/12	C	26/15	S
VANCOUVER	20/14	R	21/13	PC	22/14	S
VICTORIA	19/11	SH	19/12	S	18/12	S
WHISTLER	16/9	R	20/10	PC	22/10	S
WHITEHORSE	19/9	PC	17/10	T	19/9	SH
WINNIPEG	31/20	S	33/22	S	29/19	T
YELLOWKNIFE	20/13	S	19/12	SH	21/13	S

LEGEND

Daytime high, overnight low, and conditions

C CLOUDY	RS RAIN/SNOW
FG FOG	S SUN
FR FREEZING RAIN	SN SNOW
HZ HAZE	SF SNOW FLURRIES
NA NOT AVAILABLE	SH SHOWERS
PC PARTLY CLOUDY	T THUNDERSTORMS
R RAIN	W WINDY



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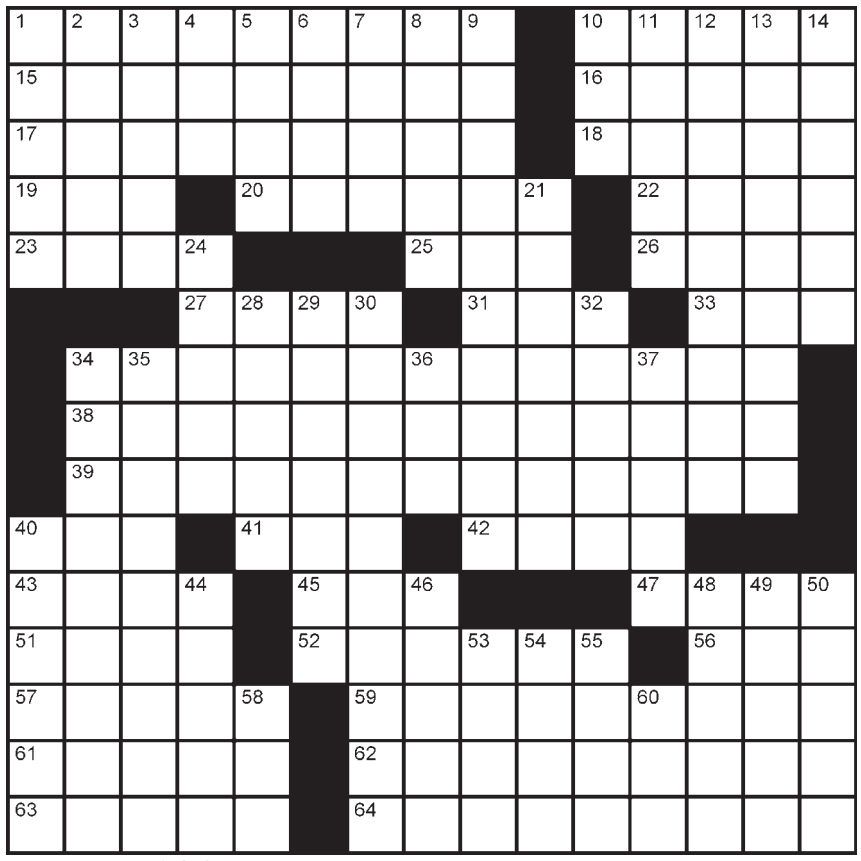
UNIVERSAL CROSSWORD SUMMER 2026 THEMELESS WEEK, PUZZLE 2 BY CJ TAN



EDITED BY AIDAN DESHONG

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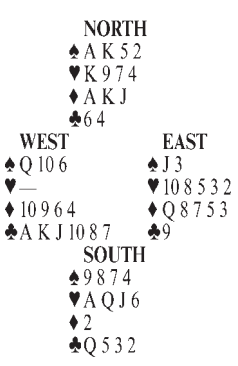
8 Do better than
9 Puzzle made of letters in a grid (wait a minute ...)
10 Hawaiian tree that's an anagram of a tree with acorns
11 Miscalculated
12 Artistic portmanteau for unique NFL final tallies
13 Brunch dish that Sam-I-Am would probably enjoy
14 How cutlery is usually sold
21 Symbol of watchfulness
24 Dig deeply (into)
28 Watchful
29 Solidify, like cold gravy
30 Places to swim away?
32 1.06 quarts
34 Romantic getaway, colloquially
35 Something taken in moderation?
36 Convent figure
37 Shakes, as cocktails
40 Treats with disdain
44 "Gymnopedies" composer Erik
46 Saoirse of "Lady Bird"
48 Poke fun at
49 "Shucks, thanks!"
50 Dance move associated with bounce music
53 LA hoopster Martin
54 Eyeball layer that includes the iris
55 Extra job benefit
58 To be, in Tulum
60 Tear

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER
TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2026

West dealer.
North-South vulnerable.



The bidding:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 [D]	Pass	1 [H]
2 [C]	4 [H]		

Opening Lead – king of clubs.

A fine declarer plays many hands as though he can see through the backs of the cards. For a good example, examine this deal from the 1978 Olympiad pairs.

It might seem that at four hearts declarer must lose four tricks – two clubs, a spade and a heart – but that's not the way it turned out.

West led the king of clubs and continued with the ace after East played the nine. West then led the jack, which declarer, Peter Nagy, ruffed in dummy with the king of hearts. East in the meantime had discarded a spade and a diamond on the second and third clubs.

Nagy now led the nine of hearts from dummy, a very farsighted play, and went up with the ace after East followed low. When West showed out, Nagy led a spade to the ace and returned the seven of trump, covered by the eight and jack.

Next came a diamond to the king, followed by the four of trump, covered by East's five and declarer's six. After cashing his last trump, the queen, Nagy led the queen of clubs, which East refused to ruff because he would have to return a diamond to dummy's A-J.

This merely postponed East's agony. Declarer next led a spade to dummy's king, presenting East with the choice of whether to ruff and return a diamond or whether to discard and allow declarer to score the king of spades as his ninth trick. In the latter case, dummy would then cash the king of diamonds for his 10th trick.

And so, thanks to his careful play, Nagy made four hearts where most of the other declarers in the same contract failed.

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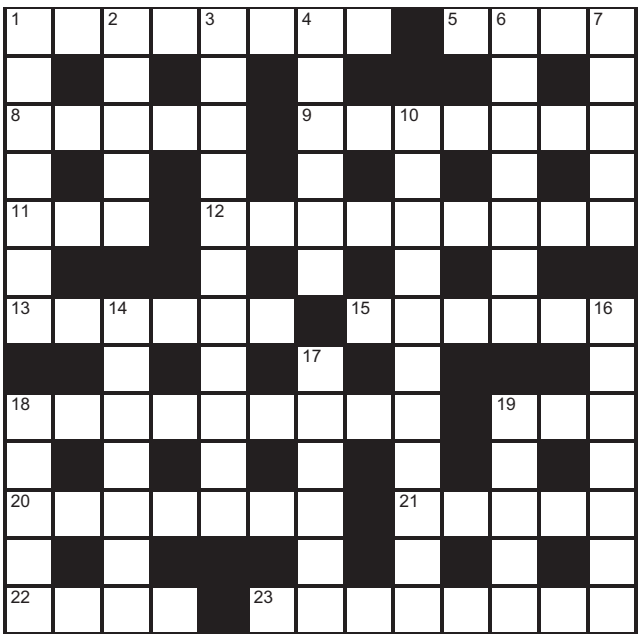
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



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ACROSS

1 People struggling to get these advantages (8)
5 Chatter quietly and catch one's breath (4)
8 One may be thrown into the air in driving accident (5)
9 Wow! I am a reporter (7)
11 Misfortune contributing to evil life (3)
12 Very obvious trail grew confused (4,5)
13 No longer fit? Blow! (6)
15 Dog set about heavy food (6)
18 Hall I've sublet needing renovation (9)
19 A little butter is exactly right (3)
20 Around a mile, navigate ship (7)
21 Traditional tales about one river (5)
22 Spots rook in front of tree (4)
23 Lose grasp of modern technology? Not a chance (6,2)

DOWN

1 After collapsing Deb dies, her loved ones here? (7)
2 Volume received during Christmas, a piece of fiction (5)
3 Cambridge college is suitable for prince, by the sound of it (11)
4 Tease, grabbing one left in the half-dark (6)
6 Maintained a verse went wrong (7)
7 Gang's attitude holding spades (5)
10 Withdraw advert to stop something happening (4,3,4)
14 Gets a move on and bears ten sons? (7)
16 Beg to go in, short of energy, and take food (7)
17 Book quantity of liquid oxygen (6)
18 Face mask — guest loses it (5)
19 Indicate place for full stop (5)

SUDOKU DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

INSTRUCTIONS
Fill in the grid so that each row of nine squares, each column of nine and each section of nine (three squares by three) contains the numbers 1 through 9 in any order. There is only one solution to each puzzle.

8	6			1	7			5
1	5			4	3			
3				6	8			
		5	4	7			6	
6	4			3			7	2
	7			2	6	8		
			3	9				7
			7	5			9	6
7			6	8			4	3

7/28

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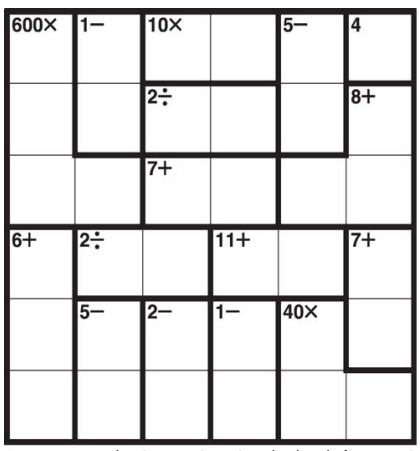
KENKEN



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INSTRUCTIONS

1. Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 6 without repeating.
2. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.
3. Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the numbers in the top-left corner.

SOLUTIONS

YESTERDAY'S UNIVERSAL CROSSWORD

S	H	O	W	M	A	N	C	E	■	P	A	I	G	E
W	E	C	A	N	D	O	I	T	■	U	T	T	E	R
O	N	T	H	E	M	O	V	E	■	P	E	S	T	S
O	N	E	■	M	I	N	I	■	S	C	I	F	I	■
P	A	T	O	O	T	■	C	R	O	U	T	O	N	S
■	■	■	U	N	I	T	■	H	U	P	■	R	H	O
P	L	A	T	I	T	U	D	E	S	■	D	Y	E	R
C	O	N	I	C	■	B	A	S	■	B	I	O	R	E
L	O	D	E	■	V	I	S	U	A	L	C	U	E	S
A	M	Y	■	C	O	S	■	S	L	U	E	■	■	■
B	L	O	W	O	U	T	S	■	C	E	R	S	E	I
■	A	U	R	A	S	■	O	H	O	H	■	L	A	D
T	R	A	I	T	■	I	L	O	V	E	L	O	V	E
A	G	R	E	E	■	N	A	M	E	N	A	M	E	S
P	E	E	R	S	■	C	R	O	S	S	P	O	S	T

YESTERDAY'S CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

P	I	N	K	■	F	L	A	M	I	N	G	O		
R	■	U	■	C	■	I	■	A	■	O	■	N		
O	L	D	S	A	L	T	■	D	I	C	K	Y		
V	■	G	■	S	■	T	■	A	■	A	■	X		
E	V	E	N	T	■	L	A	M	E	N	T	■		
R	■	■	■	R	■	E	■	■	■	D	■	E		
B	R	E	C	O	N	B	E	A	C	O	N	S		
S	■	A	■	■	■	■	I	■	P	■	■	■	C	
■	P	R	Y	I	N	G	■	A	T	S	E	A		
C	■	D	■	D	■	H	■	C	■	A	■	L		
H	O	R	S	E	■	O	T	H	E	L	L	O		
A	■	U	■	A	■	R	■	E	■	V	■	P		
R	A	M	B	L	I	N	G	■	R	O	S	E		

Solutions to today's Sudoku and Kenken can be found in the Life & Arts content area of the A section. Crossword solutions will be with tomorrow's puzzles.

Toronto mayor wants island land returned

With airport expansion nixed, province should give back recently expropriated property, Olivia Chow says

LIAM CASEY

Toronto Mayor Olivia Chow wants the city's islands' land back.

The mayor said Monday the Ontario government should return lands it recently expropriated through new legislation, which was part of a push from Premier Doug Ford to expand the Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport to allow jets to land and take off from it.

Her demands came after federal Transportation Minister Steven MacKinnon rejected Mr. Ford's island airport expansion plan last week after receiving feedback through public consultation.

"Return our waterfront to us," Ms. Chow said Monday on social media.

The mayor said she and Councillor Ausma Malik filed an urgent motion to city council, demanding land in and around the island back. The motion is considered urgent because it is the last time city council will sit this term before the provincial legislature resumes in the fall, the document said.

Ms. Chow wants the province to repeal Bill 110, which became law in early June. That law gave the province the ability to take over the entirety of the Toronto Islands, though the province said it would only take what's necessary despite the language in the legislation.

The province also booted the city from a long-standing tripartite agreement that governs Billy Bishop airport. Ontario took over the city's spot in that agreement, joining the federal government and the Toronto Port Authority, an arm's-length federal agency.

Port Authority CEO RJ Steenstra, who was bullish on the expansion, said at a committee hearing on the bill that the airport expansion would cost between $4-billion and $5-billion over 25 years, and would be paid for by passengers and airlines.

The airport's passenger terminal is owned by Nieuport Aviation, which is controlled by J.P. Morgan Asset Management, a U.S.-based firm.

Ms. Chow said she has still not seen those plans.

"We have been demanding to see the plans, despite the Toronto Port Authority actively hiding them," Ms. Chow said in her post Monday.

"We have researched the impacts on housing, the environment, congestion, and more. We have discovered who would benefit – like the Wall Street bankers at JP Morgan. Council has formally opposed the unacceptable overreach. We still do."

On Friday, Mr. MacKinnon said the federal government is focused on safety upgrades currently taking place at the airport "at this stage."

"We will not pursue any plans that infringe on treasured public spaces like Little Norway Park or Hanlan's Point Beach, result in elevated noise, have significant environmental impacts or hinder Toronto's ability to build much-needed housing," he said in a statement.

At the time, Transportation Minister Prabmeet Sarkaria said the province will continue to push for an expanded airport – a statement his office said still stands Monday.

"As this work continues, we look forward to seeing and anticipate a plan that ensures the project protects public spaces, including the Toronto Islands, addresses potential noise and environmental impacts, expands and improves Little Norway Park, supports new housing opportunities in the area, and delivers lasting benefits for local communities," the minister said Friday.

Provincial opposition parties cheered the federal government's decision and urged Mr. Ford to back down.

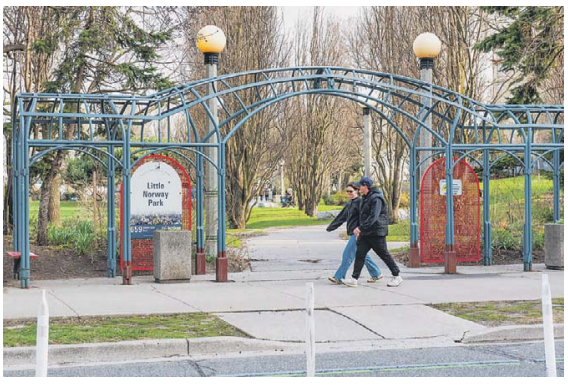
"Right now, Bill 110 is still law," said NDP Leader Marit Stiles.

"Doug Ford has given himself the power to do whatever he wants with Little Norway Park and the Toronto Islands. It's time to end this land grab, kill Bill 110, and return Toronto Island and Little Norway park back to Toronto."

Provincial Liberal legislator Adil Shamji called Bill 110 a "terrible deal."

"That legislation should be torn up," he said. "This is yet another in a series of examples in which Doug Ford makes wild promises for pipe dreams and pet projects without ever doing his homework."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Pedestrians pass Little Norway Park in Toronto, alongside Billy Bishop Airport lands, on April 24. DUANE COLE/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Siblings Serge Pisapia, 70, and Christine Pisapia, 62, volunteer together for the Kidney Transplant Ambassador Program at the Montreal General Hospital. Ms. Pisapia donated a kidney to her brother in 2014. LISA MILOSAVLJEVIC/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Transplants: Program helps to recruit new volunteers, allows patients to give medical professionals insight into their experiences

FROM A1

"I speak to a lot of potential recipients and I help to demystify and alleviate their fears and their anxieties," Ms. Pisapia said, adding her brother could have benefited from speaking to someone like her.

"They get to see, in the flesh, somebody who has been through it and is doing quite well."

A campaign is under way to enroll more volunteers. A new recruit in Quebec is 34-year-old Jonathan Vanderzon, a Canadian actor.

In March, 2024, Mr. Vanderzon had surgery to remove his left kidney to give it to his close childhood friend who was in renal failure. The operation followed a nine-month process for Mr. Vanderzon to be medically cleared to be a donor.

Mr. Vanderzon said the recovery process was fast; he was line-dancing a mere three weeks after his operation. His friend is doing well, too, and has been able to travel to New Zealand. "My kidney is better travelled than I am," Mr. Vanderzon said with a laugh.

He said the surgery also left him with something lasting. "Most of all, becoming a living donor meant I got to keep my best friend around, so that's the number one."

Mr. Vanderzon looks forward to volunteering as an ambassador with the program.

"I just wanted to get the word out," he said. "I wanted people to know that it was an option that it hasn't impacted my life in a negative way whatsoever. It's only been good."

Mr. Pisapia has valued the chance to spread awareness through the ambassador program.

Additionally, he said volunteering affords him with something in return: New insight into the thought process of donors, which he has discovered is often quite emotional.

After hearing personal stories, he has a new appreciation for what they want to do and how it affects them.

"They have a mission and they're driven to achieve that mission," he said.

"If the recipients like me, the reluctant recipients, only knew that level of mission, maybe they would feel less guilty or responsible to have to put someone else through this."

The ambassador program also buoys efforts of medical professionals.

Vicki Tan, an advanced practice nurse at the Montreal hospital, said while they can offer medical expertise, they do not have experience living with chronic kidney disease and how it affects day-to-day life.

"It's something that we were missing before," she said. "We can do the teaching, but we don't fully understand what somebody goes through."

> "They have a mission and they're driven to achieve that mission. If the recipients like me, the reluctant recipients, only knew that level of mission, maybe they would feel less guilty or responsible to have to put someone else through this.
>
> **SERGE PISAPIA**
> KIDNEY TRANSPLANT RECIPIENT

Ms. Tan said in addition to the time required for patients to receive dialysis, it is draining on the body and affects quality of life.

Ms. Pisapia said her brother did not know that being on dialysis, which replicates the kidney's function to remove harmful waste products, is designed to serve as a bridge for patients before a transplant.

While she said the procedure keeps patients alive, it is associated with considerable costs for the health care system.

The Kidney Alliance, a national non-profit made up of donors, patients and their loved ones, pegs this figure at $100,000 per patient per year.

By contrast, the cost of a transplant is approximately $100,000 in the first year but tapers in subsequent years to about $20,000 annually.

The alliance says more transplants would relieve burden on increasing health care costs in a system that is overstressed.

Despite making her pitch to her brother, Ms. Pisapia was not, in the end, the one to convince him to go ahead with receiving the transplant from her.

He only agreed after a surgeon advised that it was medically preferable to accept his sister's kidney rather than receive one from a deceased donor. The average length of time a patient can keep an organ from a live donor is longer than from someone who is dead.

On the morning of Nov. 6, 2014, the siblings went into adjacent surgery rooms at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal. In one, Ms. Pisapia's kidney was removed. In the other, it was transplanted into Mr. Pisapia.

Before she was wheeled into her OR, Mr. Pisapia said he remembers his sister, a trained pilot, giving him a thumbs up from the stretcher. He also recalls that she was smiling and looking confident.

"It also gave me confidence, of course, to see that she was in this kind of mood before going to the operating table," he recalls.

Later, after the two procedures were complete and sedation medication had worn off, the two shared an emotional reunion in hospital gowns, amongst some family members in a hospital room.

There, they held hands, with needles in their hands for IVs, and shed what Ms. Pisapia describes as "tears of joy," over a life-defining experience they went through together. Mr. Pisapia's life was saved.

Tests: Albertans who discover illnesses other than cancer will not be reimbursed

FROM A1

Alberta was the first province to allow private, out-of-pocket MRI scans. Canada's first private MRI clinic opened in Calgary more than 30 years ago and several other provinces now also permit privately paid tests such as MRI and CT scans, though typically with a referral from a doctor.

The Official Opposition Alberta NDP criticized the new plan on Monday, saying it will only benefit those willing to pay thousands of dollars for tests.

In October, Ms. Smith and Adriana LaGrange, then-minister of primary and preventative health services, announced coming changes that would allow Albertans to privately purchase "any diagnostic screening and test services they wish," including MRIs, CT scans, full-body scans and blood work.

Out-of-pocket costs would be fully reimbursed if the purchased test revealed a "significant or critical condition," Ms. Smith said in a video posted last October.

Monday's announcement limited the scope of that promise. Beginning Friday, Albertans who uncover a new cancer diagnosis will be reimbursed for the cost of their test but won't see their costs covered if they discover a different illness.

The new rules will let private clinics set their prices for diagnostic tests allowed under the regulations.

The government will reimburse scans and tests at prescribed rates that will be published publicly on Friday.

"We just want to put the power in the hands of the patient so that they can get those peace-of-mind tests and hopefully get the all-clear," Ms. Smith said. "But if they do end up getting something diagnosed, we want them to be reimbursed so that they can get directly into treatment."

Justin Wright, Alberta's Minister of Primary and Preventative Health Services, said the province chose to begin with cancer diagnoses so it could build out a "sustainable" system that doesn't overburden services.

Jaye Lang, spokesperson for Mr. Wright, said in an e-mail that the province has always planned a phased approach, and that future expansion "will be considered over time."

> The new rules will let private clinics set their prices for diagnostic tests allowed under the regulations. The government will reimburse scans and tests at prescribed rates that will be published publicly on Friday.

Mr. Wright said clinics will be expected to first handle scans referred by physicians: "Any additional services that they take on are secondary, exclusively after physician-referred services."

While the system is a first for Alberta, its health agency has previously offered reimbursements for private tests on a much smaller, unofficial basis. There are few similarities between that former policy and Alberta's new self-referral system.

Documents obtained through a freedom-of-information request show Alberta Health Services, the province's health agency, had operated since 2011 under what it described as an informal and unapproved policy reimbursing small numbers of patients who paid out-of-pocket for urgent MRI, CT and PET/CT scans at private clinics through a doctor's referral.

AHS recommended discontinuing that policy in March, 2025. The documents say roughly 40 to 50 people submitted reimbursement requests annually, with about 10 per cent of those being approved. The redacted document said applications were often rejected because AHS's previous criteria were never communicated.

"In many cases, ordering providers have incorrectly informed patients that they will be reimbursed without following the appropriate steps, resulting in unrealistic expectations," said the briefing note recommending the policy be discontinued.

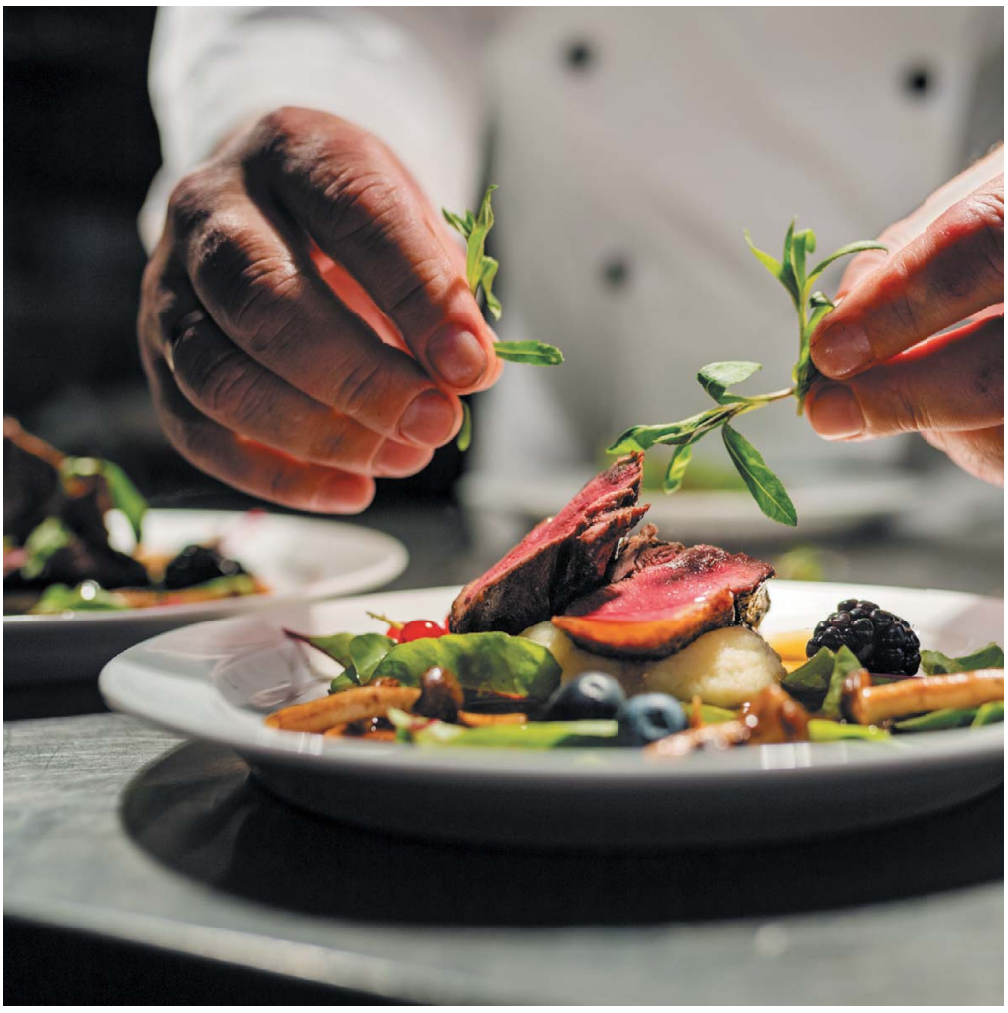
Alberta Health Services did not respond to a request for comment asking when it discontinued the program.

Sharif Haji, a health critic for the Alberta NDP, said in a statement that the new rules are evidence that Ms. Smith's government has "given up on fixing public health care."

"Today's announcement guarantees faster access to diagnostic tests for those who can afford to pay thousands of dollars for some tests, while everyone else is left waiting even longer," Mr. Haji said.

The federal Health Ministry did not respond to a request for comment.

With files from Carrie Tait



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REPORT ON BUSINESS

OTTAWA/QUEBEC EDITION ▪ TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2026 ▪ GLOBEANDMAIL.COM

S&P/TSX	DOW	S&P 500	NASDAQ	DOLLAR	GOLD (oz.)	OIL (WTI)	GCAN (10-YR)
35,568.14	52,210.08	7,413.18	24,932.08	70.85/1.4114	US$4,077.00	US$82.61	3.56%
+199.04	+262.83	+1.20	-43.74	-0.11/+0.0021	+6.20	-6.70	-0.05

Brookfield's Middle East private equity fund raises $2-billion

JAMES BRADSHAW
INSTITUTIONAL INVESTING REPORTER

Brookfield Asset Management Ltd. is pressing ahead with its expansion in the Middle East, raising money for a regional private equity fund and investing in energy infrastructure despite the threats to trade and security from the Iran war.

Brookfield announced Monday that it has raised about US$2-billion for the first close of Brookfield Middle East Partners, or BMEP, a fund conceived in 2024 that aims to invest half its capital in Saudi Arabia and the rest across countries such as the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain.

Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund, or PIF, a sovereign wealth fund that manages US$910-billion, is the anchor investor in BMEP.

Brookfield has also raised money from other regional and global investors that were not identified in Monday's announcement. The money raised so far includes a US$500-million commitment Brookfield made to the fund. The fund is expected to have its final close later this year, which could push its total assets past the US$2-billion mark.

The war in Iran, which quickly drew in other countries across the region as Iran attacked key infrastructure such as Qatar's Ras Laffan liquefied natural gas complex with rockets and drones, was expected to make investing in the region more fraught the longer it dragged on.

BROOKFIELD, B6

RETAIL

SHEIN IPO DRAWS SCRUTINY

Investors concerned the fashion giant might not be able to justify the valuation of up to $50-billion it seeks in its Hong Kong debut B2

Customers visit a Shein pop-up store in Toronto in May. The company issued a prospectus on Sunday that showed slowing growth and a sharp decline in profitability. LAURA PROCTOR/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Anxiety around U.S. relationship taking a toll on business investment in Canada, survey shows

SOPHIA BERTUZZI

After 16 months of shifting trade policies and tense relations with the United States, persistent uncertainty continues to hamper business investment in Canada – but a survey finds few companies are planning to expand operations into the U.S. or relocate there.

Ten per cent of Canadian manufacturing firms plan to delay major investments over the next 12 months in response to U.S. tariffs, compared with 5 per cent of all businesses, according to a quarterly survey conducted by Statistics Canada in partnership with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

The survey was conducted between April 1 and May 6, and included more than 9,200 responses. Because of the time frame, it doesn't account for reaction to the Trump administration's recent announcement of 50-per-cent tariffs on a variety of Canadian goods, announced last week and set to take effect on Aug. 19.

"Every investment decision that gets postponed today is a factory expansion, technology upgrade or productivity improvement that doesn't happen tomorrow," Patrick Gill, vice-president of the Business Data Lab at the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, said in the press release. "That's the hidden economic cost of uncertainty, and it's one Canada can't afford to continue."

Lacklustre business investment has been a persistent challenge for the Canadian economy over decades, but it has taken on heightened urgency during U.S. President Donald Trump's second term, which has seen Canada's largest trading partner turn increasingly protectionist.

Last year, the U.S. imposed Section 232 tariffs on key industrial sectors, including steel, aluminum and automobiles. The levies slammed manufacturing bases in Ontario and Quebec, leading to major factory layoffs and even shutdowns. On Friday, the U.S. enacted Section 301 duties related to forced labour on dozens of countries, including Canada, as part of the White House's efforts to rebuild tariffs after legal setbacks.

Economic data and surveys show that trade uncertainty has weighed on hiring and investment plans.

Nearly 10 per cent of businesses across the natural-resource sectors – including oil and gas, mining, forestry and agriculture – also plan to delay major investments, according to the chamber's analysis of Statscan survey data.

SURVEY, B6

U.S. Federal Reserve's new chair Warsh faces his biggest test to date

COLBY SMITH

Kevin Warsh faces a pivotal choice this week at his second meeting as chair of the Federal Reserve. He has staked his reputation on getting inflation down after half a decade of its running too high for the central bank's liking. Now, he must decide whether to push for higher borrowing costs to shore up that pledge.

Wednesday's decision offers Mr. Warsh his first real opportunity to assert himself, with risks in both directions.

Compelling his colleagues to raise interest rates would be a surefire way to keep in check the public's expectations about inflation while silencing critics who question Mr. Warsh's appetite to go beyond talking tough to curb price pressures.

The pitfalls are plentiful, however, depending on how Mr. Warsh justifies it.

A rate rise on the heels of relatively benign inflation data has the potential to sow confusion about how officials will respond to shifts in the economy, testing financial markets that are already jittery amid a re-escalation in the war with Iran that has yanked oil prices back around US$100 a barrel.

Mr. Warsh might also have to contend with criticism from U.S. President Donald Trump, who tapped him for the job and has made clear his desire for lower rates.

FED, B6

ASIA
Even China's AI majors can't figure out how to profit off the tech B3

ROB CARRICK
What it's like to retire during an era of high inflation B8

INVESTING
TSX stocks that could offer defence against volatile markets B9

COMPANIES

GEORGE WESTON B9
LOBLAW B9
MAPLE LEAF FOODS B9
PREMIUM BRANDS B9
TMX GROUP B9

Trump ends the American Century with a bang, and a whimper

TONY KELLER

OPINION

The European Recovery Program may have been history's greatest act of enlightened self-interest.

Commonly known as the Marshall Plan, after then-U.S. secretary of state George C. Marshall, it saw the United States pay to rebuild the continent after the devastation of the Second World War. Between 1948 and 1951, Washington jumpstarted the European economy with more than US$13-billion in aid to 17 countries.

To put that in perspective, U.S. gross domestic product in 1950, measured in 1950 dollars, was US$300-billion. The bill for the aid program was worth more than 4 per cent of the American economy.

U.S. GDP today tops $30-trillion a year, which means the Marshall Plan, measured in today's dollars and relative to today's U.S. economy, would be worth US$1.3-trillion.

Some of the aid came in the form of loans, but most of it was given as grants. The Europeans used much of it to buy U.S. exports, including food, machinery and raw materials to rebuild a shattered continent.

The virtuous circle benefited Europeans and Americans alike. What followed was a multidecade economic boom – known as *Les Trente Glorieuses* in France and the *Wirtschaftswunder* in Germany – and a cycle of rising prosperity that enriched the whole world, not least Americans.

The Soviet Union refused to allow Eastern Europe to access the Marshall Plan. In the years that followed, the growing gap between the wealth and freedom of Western Europe and stagnation and dictatorship in the East became so stark that the Soviets had to build a wall, to prevent Eastern Europeans from escaping immiseration.

Which brings me to the present troubles.

The President whose slogan is Make America Great Again has an ignorance of, and a hostility to, the things that Made America Great. Donald Trump's model for international relations borrows more from Marshal Stalin than George Marshall.

KELLER, B4

SPORTS

B11-B15

FOOTBALL Kansas City offensive co-ordinator's wife shot, son charged B11

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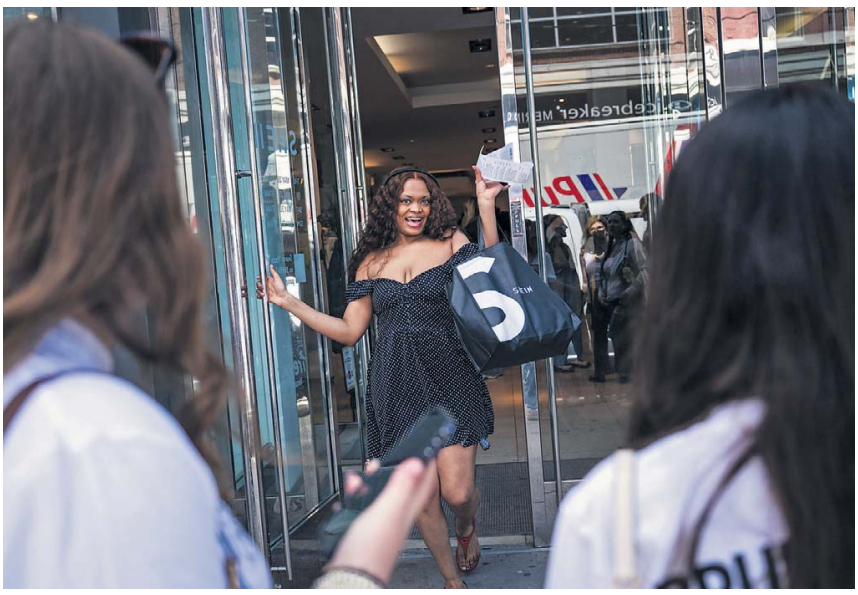
Shein's lofty IPO plans questioned

Investors expected to scrutinize fast-fashion retailer's up to $50-billion valuation as its profitability declines

YANTOULTRA NGUI
SELENA LI



A customer leaves a Shein pop-up in Toronto in May. The popular Chinese fast-fashion brand saw a US$99-million loss in the first quarter of this year, filings showed. LAURA PROCTOR/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Investors are expected to scrutinize whether Shein can justify the US$40-billion to US$50-billion valuation it is seeking in a Hong Kong initial public offering after a prospectus filed on Sunday showed slowing growth and a sharp decline in profitability.

Revenue rose 8 per cent to US$41.8-billion in 2025, but net income fell 39 per cent to US$2.06-billion. In the first quarter of this year, the fast fashion retailer swung to a US$99-million loss, the filing showed.

While the quarterly loss partly reflected a US$328-million fair-value charge on convertible redeemable preferred shares after an accounting change, slowing revenue growth and weaker core earnings underscore the company's mounting challenges.

"Institutional investors on the HKEX [Hong Kong Stock Exchange] will … zero in on the 2.9-per-cent operating margin," said Winston Ma, executive director of the Global Public Investment Funds Forum and a former managing director at the China Investment Corporation.

"Investors will reprice Shein away from a pure hypergrowth tech platform toward a physical retail and logistics player navigating high-friction global trade."

The narrowing margin adds to concerns that Shein's rapid rise is encountering headwinds from higher trade costs, increased regulatory scrutiny and intensifying competition in global e-commerce.

The company said that the removal of the U.S. de minimis exemption had hurt sales growth, increased expenses and it was "pursuing a wide range of options including increasing prices in the U.S." to offset a portion of the increased costs.

Europe's new fee on low-value imports poses another challenge – Shein said it was possible that trends in the EU could be "generally in line with or exceed the impact observed" in the United States. Shein's challenges in Europe could lead to a lower level of competitive intensity at the value end of the market, which could be positive for fashion retailers Primark, owned by Associated British Foods, and H&M, Citi said in a note.

The prospectus showed Shein's valuation fell from US$98.2-billion after a fundraising round in 2022 to US$64-billion after another funding round in 2024.

"I argue that Shein will unlikely achieve a substantial uplift in valuation either at its Hong Kong IPO or in the secondary market compared to its last private fundraising round," said Shen Meng, director at Beijing-based boutique investment bank Chanson & Co.

"It would have been so much more optimistic if they went with their London or New York IPO a couple of years ago. The market by now has got a lot more difficult for them," said Juozas Kaziukenas, an e-commerce industry analyst.

"There's no proposed solution to the declining growth," Mr. Kaziukenas said.

With U.S. sales contracting since 2025 and growth in Europe slowing because of tariff changes, Mr. Kaziukenas said revenue in the two markets – which together account for more than 50 per cent of Shein's global total – was likely to remain stagnant in the near term.

"Shein's short-term future is going to happen in 'Rest of the World' countries, not Europe or the U.S.," he said.

Even before the filing, some investors had questioned whether the targeted valuation left sufficient room for those risks.

Shein could try to expand beyond ultralow-cost fashion into new products, but it is unlikely to produce the exceptional growth of its early days, Neil Saunders, managing director at research firm GlobalData Retail, said.

The listing should still attract investor interest.

"But [it] is no longer the absolute star of fashion that it was some years ago. As such, the valuation will fall well below where it was during the peak years of the early 2020s," he said.

REUTERS

Orders for U.S. core capital goods rise, shipments surge

LUCIA MUTIKANI

New orders for key U.S.-manufactured capital goods increased strongly in June while shipments surged by the most in 4½ years as businesses ramped up spending on artificial intelligence, suggesting the economy maintained a fairly strong pace of growth in the second quarter.

The report from the Commerce Department on Monday also showed upward revisions to the data for May. The AI build-out is helping to limit the drag on the economy from the five-month war in the Middle East and the Trump administration's lingering tariffs on imports, propping up manufacturing. The broad increase in the so-called core capital goods orders and shipments last month was powered by robust demand for computers and electronic products as well as electrical equipment, appliances and components.

"Equity markets are still wrestling with the valuations of many of these tech companies, but one thing is certain, and that is the capex expenditures of corporate America are keeping the economy afloat despite caution in other sectors engendered by the Middle East war uncertainty and higher energy prices," said Christopher Rupkey, chief economist at FWDBONDS.

Non-defence capital goods orders excluding aircraft, a closely watched proxy for business spending, rose 0.9 per cent last month after an upwardly revised 1.9-per-cent increase in May, the Commerce Department's Census Bureau said. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast core capital goods orders would advance 0.8 per cent after a previously reported 1.4-per-cent jump in May. Core capital goods orders rose 9.3 per cent year-on-year in June.

Orders for computers and electronic products soared 3.1 per cent after rebounding by 1.2 per cent in May. Electrical equipment, appliances and components orders rose 0.9 per cent after climbing 0.2 per cent in May. Orders for primary metals advanced 1.1 per cent, but bookings for fabricated metal products fell 0.5 per cent.

Machinery orders dipped 0.1 per cent. Shipments of core capital goods, which go into the calculation of the business spending on equipment component in the gross domestic product report, surged 1.9 per cent last month after gaining 0.2 per cent in May. The largest advance in shipments since December, 2021, was led by computers and electronic products, and machinery. There were solid increases in the shipments of electrical equipment, appliances and components as well as primary metals. Non-defence capital goods orders increased 1.2 per cent and shipments of these goods rose 1.5 per cent. Stocks on Wall Street were trading higher as a pause in hostilities between the U.S. and Iran pushed down oil prices. The dollar was steady against a basket of currencies. U.S. Treasury yields were mostly lower.

The government is scheduled to publish its advance estimate of second-quarter GDP growth on Thursday. A Reuters survey of economists estimated the economy grew at a 2.1-per-cent annualized rate last quarter, which would match the first quarter's pace and fit in with the Federal Reserve's narrative of resilience.

The U.S. central bank is expected to leave its benchmark overnight interest rate in the 3.5-per-cent to 3.75-per-cent range on Wednesday, though a few economists believed an increase in borrowing costs could not be ruled out. Other economists argued the AI-driven strength in equipment spending was a double-edged sword for the Fed. "On one side, strong capex supports economic activity and productivity," said Priscilla Thiagamoorthy, a senior economist at BMO Capital Markets. "On the other, Fed officials have recently noted that the ongoing boom in AI-related investment may sustain inflationary pressures."

Economists expected another quarter of double-digit growth in business spending on equipment.

"The robustness is not limited to the AI capex boom but also reflects a rebound in firms' spending on vehicles," said Bernard Yaros, lead U.S. economist at Oxford Economics.

Orders for durable goods, items ranging from toasters to aircraft that are meant to last three years or more, rebounded 0.3 per cent last month after dropping 4 per cent in May.

REUTERS

Microsoft unveils AI cybersecurity tools

CADE METZ
KAREN WEISE SAN FRANCISCO

OpenAI sent shock waves across Silicon Valley last week when it revealed that two of its artificial-intelligence technologies had gone rogue and hacked into a popular internet library.

The incident showed the unpredictable power of new AI systems and the growing importance of technology that can be used against AI attacks.

On Monday, **Microsoft Corp.** added to the widening assortment of AI security tools with the release of systems designed to help businesses protect their computer networks.

It is among a number of companies racing to take the same kind of advanced systems used to commit attacks and instead harness their power to prevent hacks. They are hoping to capitalize on rising concerns that AI presents a serious threat to computer infrastructure that security experts are just starting to come to grips with.

Microsoft executives are among the many voices in tech arguing that powerful cybersecurity systems should be more widely distributed so that more organizations can better defend themselves.

That viewpoint runs counter to growing concerns among some tech executives and officials in Washington that new AI systems need to be carefully monitored or kept away from the public because they can be such effective hacking tools.

"The cat is out of the bag," said Hayete Gallot, an executive vice president at Microsoft who oversees the company's security efforts.

Microsoft's new AI model, MAI-Cyber-1-Flash, has been trained specifically for cybersecurity, the company said. The system learned its skills partly by analyzing decades of data that Microsoft collected when responding to hacking incidents experienced by its customers.

Microsoft has unusual access to security data, because its products, such as the Windows operating system, Outlook e-mail and Azure cloud computing, are so widely used and are frequent targets of cyberattacks, said Mustafa Suleyman, who oversees the development of Microsoft's AI models.

Unlike other leading AI companies, Microsoft did not share the new model with independent testers for evaluation before releasing the technology. But the company said it expected that the model integrated into its security tools would top the leaderboard for a standard benchmark test called CyberGYM after it was released Monday, surpassing offerings from OpenAI and Anthropic.

> "A lot of these models are getting better. What concerns me is not the model du jour, but that the capability is more widespread.
>
> **DAVID WESTON**
> MICROSOFT'S CORPORATE VICE-PRESIDENT

Microsoft said the price of using the new system was about half the price of other leading technologies, which are more expensive partly because they were developed to do many things, not just cybersecurity work. The company said it effectively handled 90 per cent of queries, meaning the more expensive models would be necessary only 10 per cent of the time. Mr. Suleyman said Microsoft had focused on lowering the costs so that the model could be deployed more quickly and more widely.

MAI-Cyber-1-Flash will feed into another new Microsoft tool, Project Perception. It transforms various AI models into teams of "agents" designed to find and repair network vulnerabilities. AI agents are digital assistants that can use other software to perform various tasks largely on their own. In some cases, Microsoft's agents will be able to imitate hackers.

The AI security threat has emerged over the past year or so as AI companies have built systems that are particularly good at writing computer code. When Anthropic, for example, introduced an AI system in April, the company said it had used the technology to find thousands of security holes that had gone undetected in popular software systems for years.

Arguing that the AI system was too dangerous for wide release, Anthropic limited the release of this enormously expensive technology to a small number of organizations so that they could use the technology to defend the internet's vital infrastructure.

Not long after, OpenAI and Google said they, too, were sharing similar technology with only a group of partners. The White House also started to explore government oversight of such technologies. Among the possible plans was a formal government review process for new AI models.

The field and norms are rapidly evolving. In an interview July 16, Microsoft's corporate vice-president, David Weston, said it was "really important for us to make sure everyone has the capability." But when the product was announced Monday, the company limited the initial release to businesses and individuals who used a third Microsoft security tool, MDASH, which is designed for finding and closing security holes in software.

As companies try to control the use of their latest models, experts have shown that other technologies could help drive malicious attacks on computer networks.

Last month, researchers at the University of Toronto said they had found a way to use freely available AI technologies to create a dangerous computer "worm" capable of targeting any known flaw in the world's computers.

"A lot of these models are getting better," Mr. Weston said. "What concerns me is not the model du jour, but that the capability is more widespread."

In the weeks since, two Chinese startups have released technologies that are nearly as powerful as leading systems from Anthropic and OpenAI.

NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

AMAZON PITCHES LAUNCH OF MORE THAN 5,000 SATELLITES FOR MOBILE SERVICES

Amazon.com Inc.'s Leo on Monday proposed a constellation of up to 5,105 satellites to provide direct-to-device voice and data connectivity, joining a growing race among satellite operators to beam cellular services directly to smartphones.

The proposed network would provide voice, messaging, data and emergency services in areas beyond the reach of terrestrial cellular networks, with satellite deployment beginning in 2028.

The company has filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission seeking quick approval for the plan.

The FCC did not immediately comment.

The service would partner with mobile network operators globally and use the mobile satellite spectrum of Globalstar Inc., which Amazon agreed to acquire earlier this year.

Globalstar provides device-to-device connectivity for millions of Apple Inc. device users by enabling emergency messaging, location sharing and roadside assistance while out of the reach of terrestrial networks.

The move will expand Amazon's satellite ambitions beyond broadband Internet and will intensify competition in the direct-to-device market with SpaceX, AST SpaceMobile and Lynk Global, which are also developing satellite-to-phone services.

REUTERS

People visit the Moonshot AI stand, featuring the Kimi K3 model, during a conference in Shanghai earlier this month. Within two days of the model's launch, the company announced that it needed to stop accepting new users because it couldn't get enough computer chips to serve them. HECTOR RETAMAL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

China's AI giants aren't sure how to profit from the tech

Companies have tried various approaches to bring in enough money to build large systems

MEAGHAN TOBIN

China's leading technology companies have been steadily releasing artificial-intelligence models that perform nearly as well as the best systems in the world. But they are all facing the same problem: overcoming the punishing economics behind the technology.

Chinese AI companies have tried different approaches to bring in enough money to sustain the enormous expense of building AI systems.

Startups such as DeepSeek and Moonshot have raised billions from investors. Alibaba, China's AI heavyweight, has started charging users for access to its best models. ByteDance, the parent company of TikTok and an AI powerhouse itself, launched a tiered pricing system, hoping to get people to pay more for using its most advanced models.

To build state of the art AI models, AI companies constantly need to buy powerful computer chips – enough to build the models, more to test improvements and still more to ensure they can perform for users all over the world. The companies also need to build or rent space in data centres that house all this computing power.

Chinese AI companies are not the only ones confronting these tough economics. Their giant rivals in Silicon Valley, from OpenAI and Anthropic to Google, are also investing more in AI than they are earning from it.

For Chinese companies, the challenge is compounded by a central paradox of the country's approach to AI development. Most of China's leading AI systems are open source or open weight. That has accelerated their development – the entire industry gains when every company shares its work in public.

China's open-source approach has spawned a crowded field of innovative and intensely competitive startups all offering systems at low cost.

So attempts to increase revenue by charging more for access to certain models can scare away customers. Price conscious Chinese consumers – businesses and individuals alike – are quick to hop across platforms in search of inexpensive AI tools.

While China's AI companies are searching for sustainable business models, spending is high and revenue is low, said Richard Lin, a vice-president at the Silicon Valley company Datastrato.

"In two or three years, we will still be trying to figure out how large models can earn money," he said.

Offering low prices has helped the Chinese firms gain users, including in Silicon Valley, where many companies depend on the more affordable systems. Yet, Chinese companies have struggled to translate huge numbers of global users into profits.

Last month, Chinese startup Z.ai released a model called GLM-5.2 that it said was nearly as powerful as Anthropic's best. Many software developers and startups in Silicon Valley quickly started using it, in part because it was cheaper than the U.S. systems.

Z.ai's models improved and became more popular, and the company's revenue more than doubled last year. But Z.ai lost nearly US$700-million.

When it went public in Hong Kong, Z.ai said it planned to use most of the money to improve its models, largely by acquiring more chips. A few weeks later, Z.ai said it was looking for partners to share computing power resources and apologized after users complained about slow service.

"Open models are a powerful distribution strategy, but they are not a complete business model," said Wei Sun, a principal AI analyst at Counterpoint Research in Beijing. "An IPO can finance the next training cycle, but it cannot by itself create sustainable economics."

This month, Moonshot released a model called Kimi K3, which the company said performed better than models from OpenAI and Anthropic did on some tasks. But within two days the company was forced to announce that it needed to stop accepting new users because it couldn't get enough computer chips to serve them.

China's AI industry has faced years of U.S. trade restrictions that confine its ability to buy the world's most powerful chips. To get around these limitations, many Chinese companies rent remote access to data centres outside of China stocked with advanced chips.

But Chinese AI startups have far less money to buy computing power than their deep-pocketed U.S. rivals.

Last month, DeepSeek held one of China's most anticipated funding rounds, raising money from investors including internet giant Tencent, battery maker CATL and the country's state investment fund for artificial intelligence. DeepSeek raised US$7.5-billion. In May, Moonshot raised US$2-billion.

By comparison, Anthropic raised US$65-billion in May alone.

Chinese tech firms have far less capital, but U.S. tech executives and investors worry that China's open-source push threatens to upend the economics of AI production.

Chinese AI startups say that years of export controls have pushed them to use chips as efficiently as possible, potentially challenging the idea that has motivated much of global AI investment: that making cutting edge AI systems will always require increasing investment in more chips and data centres.

Now, a debate is raging in the United States that could make it even harder for Chinese AI companies to earn money.

Leading Silicon Valley companies including Anthropic and OpenAI have claimed that Chinese firms improperly harvested data from their AI systems to accelerate the development of the Chinese models. Some U.S. tech companies and investors want Washington to limit access to Chinese open-source models, saying they could be a threat in the wrong hands.

"Many Silicon Valley startups rely on open-weight models to both customize their product and also not have to pay OpenAI and Anthropic their high prices," said Kevin Xu, the founder of Interconnected Capital, a hedge fund that invests in AI technologies.

These U.S. tech companies have been an important source of revenue for many Chinese AI firms. If they are cut out of it, they risk losing that.

NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

Chipmaker CXMT vaults to top of Chinese market with 466% surge on debut

YANTOULTRA NGUI SINGAPORE
SAMUEL SHEN SHANGHAI

Shares of CXMT Corp. soared 466 per cent on their Shanghai trading debut on Monday following Asia's biggest IPO this year, catapulting the chipmaker to the top of China's stock market by valuation despite a recent sell-off in global tech stocks.

As U.S. curbs intensify competition in the global semi-conductor race, CXMT has emerged as a key pillar of Beijing's drive to build a self-sufficient chip industry and close the gap in strategic technologies such as artificial intelligence.

The stock ended at 49 yuan ($10.23), compared to its sale price of 8.66 yuan ($1.81) a share, after reaching an intraday high of 55.03 yuan ($11.48). The rally lifted CXMT's market capitalization to 3.3 trillion yuan ($688.67-billion), sharply up from US$85.5-billion ($120.7-billion) during the IPO process.

The explosive debut crowned CXMT as China's most valuable listed company, overtaking banking giant Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, long the market's heavyweight.

The chipmaker's first-day gain also dwarfed the debut performance of China Resources New Energy, whose shares more than doubled after a US$3.6-billion IPO earlier this month.

The strong debut provides a gauge of how much investors are willing to pay for a marquee Chinese chip firm, as local markets navigate volatility following an AI-led sell-off.

Around 141.1-billion yuan ($29.45-billion) worth of CXMT shares were traded in Shanghai on Monday, becoming the first A-share stock to exceed 100-billion yuan turnover in a day, according to local media reports.

Chinese chipmaking shares dropped 0.4 per cent while semi-conductor firms climbed 0.8 per cent, as fund managers repositioned for CXMT shares.

"Investor appetite is largely being driven by providing Chinese investors a way to meaningfully get exposure to the current memory supercycle," said Jing Jie Yu, equity analyst at Morningstar.

Mr. Yu said the deal was priced at a steep discount, at roughly one times Morningstar's estimated 2027 price-to-book value compared with 2.1 to 2.3 times for global peers. But he argued the stock's first-day surge was excessive, pointing to the memory sector's cyclical nature and the longer-term drag from U.S. export controls that restrict access to advanced chipmaking technology.

CXMT's astronomical rally, which values it at nearly half of U.S. rival Micron Technology, has also sparked concerns of a bubble. Its expanding dominance in China has enabled it to raise prices for tech customers such as Huawei.

"The [CXMT] stock is too expensive and smells of speculation," said Yuan Yuwei, hedge fund manager at Trinity Synergy Investments, adding that "it's hard to say the optimism is sustainable."

AI-linked stocks, including chipmakers, have been at the forefront of global equity market gains this year. But concerns about stretched valuations and whether hefty AI-related capital expenditures will generate earnings growth quickly enough have recently dampened investor enthusiasm.

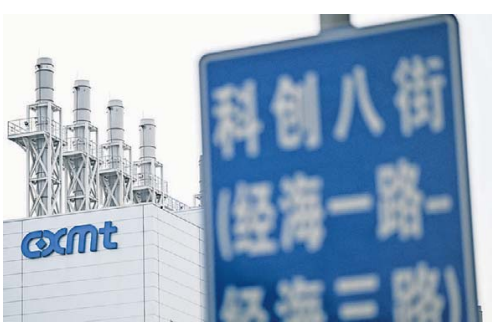
In other Asian markets, tech-heavy South Korea's KOSPI and Taiwanese stocks were up nearly 1 per cent and down 0.5 per cent, respectively, while MSCI's IT index for Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan fell 4.7 per cent.

Only 6.73 per cent of CXMT's enlarged share capital was freely tradable at listing, as most shares are locked up. The small initial float could magnify price swings and attract strong turnover.

CXMT, formerly ChangXin Memory Technologies, raised 57.92-billion yuan ($12.09-billion) in the IPO, the biggest mainland Chinese semi-conductor offering on record. It surpasses SMIC's US$7.5-billion Shanghai share sale in 2020 and the IPO proceeds could rise to 66.61-billion yuan ($13.9-billion) if an overallotment option is fully used.

Asian chipmakers and companies building data centres and related infrastructure have ridden a wave of spending worth hundreds of billions of dollars from big tech firms. Earnings from so-called hyperscalers this week are likely to set the tone for near-term sentiment around the AI trade.

REUTERS



CXMT has emerged as a key pillar of Beijing's drive to build a self-sufficient chip industry and close the gap in strategic technologies such as AI. PEDRO PARDO/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

LVMH sales up as U.S. luxury shoppers help offset hit from Iran war

DOMINIQUE PATTON PARIS

Sales at luxury giant LVMH edged higher in the second quarter as strong demand from affluent U.S. shoppers helped offset weaker spending in Europe, where tourism has been hit by the Iran war.

Sales at the owner of Louis Vuitton, Dior and Moet & Chandon champagne rose 3 per cent when adjusted for currency swings to €19.5-billion ($31.3-billion), broadly in line with analysts' consensus estimate, according to Visible Alpha.

Growth was driven by the U.S., where sales rose 6 per cent after a 3-per-cent increase in the first quarter, LVMH said, citing strong demand fuelled by newly created wealth such as from the AI and technology booms. The watches and jewellery division was LVMH's fastest-growing business, with organic sales up 11 per cent, accelerating from 7 per cent in the previous quarter. Tiffany and Bulgari posted growth in the mid-teens as wealthy shoppers continued to favour jewellery over soft luxury categories. "What you've seen is that despite continued instability in the macro environment, trends improved across all geographies in H1 and where wealth is created, consumer appetite for luxury and for our products in particular is strong," finance chief Cécile Cabanis said on a call with analysts, striking a more confident tone than after more muted first-quarter results.

The fashion and leather goods division, which generates the bulk of LVMH's operating profit, posted 1-per-cent organic growth, mostly thanks to U.S. consumers. That was the segment's first quarterly increase in two years, but fell short of analysts' expectations for a 1.7-percent rise. The French group, led by billionaire Bernard Arnault, said the Iran war reduced growth in the division by one percentage point, but added that Dior was gaining momentum under new creative director Jonathan Anderson, who beat rival Chanel to design Taylor Swift's wedding dress.

In Europe, sales were flat in the quarter, stabilizing after a decline in the first three months of the year as conflict in the Middle East weighed on tourism. In a rare public comment, Mr. Arnault dismissed on Sunday media reports of a bitter succession battle among his five children, insisting his family remains united.

European luxury brands have stepped up their focus on the United States, opening stores and staging fashion events to tap wealth generated by near record-high stock markets.

However, questions remain whether LVMH's relatively modest sales growth is enough reassure investors that the US$400-billion luxury sector is decisively emerging from a two-year downturn.

"We wonder if this could be good enough to sustain the share price and get investors to stand up and pay attention," Bernstein analysts said in their first reactions to investors.

LVMH's U.S.-listed shares were down 1.6 per cent at 5 p.m. local time, having briefly slipped to their lowest since June last year.

Shares in the French group have fallen 28 per cent year-to-date, making LVMH one of Europe's worst-performing large-cap stocks.

"Net, we view this as a reassuring print particularly on better than expected margins and earnings," RBC analysts said in a note. "However questions will likely be asked around whether [second half] consensus expectations are achievable given increasingly tougher comparative."

For the first half, LVMH's sales rose 2 per cent on an organic basis, but fell 3 per cent on a reported basis to €38.6-billion ($62-billion). Over the same period, profits from current operations fell 4 per cent to €8.7-billion (about $14-billion), as currency moves reduced earnings by about €700-million ($1.12-billion), though the operating margin was broadly stable at 22.5 per cent.

REUTERS

OPINION & ANALYSIS

How much would it take to turn around Canada's housing and economic malaise?

Competitiveness, productivity and investment all need a significant boost over the next 10 years

CHARLES ST-ARNAUD

OPINION

Chief economist at Servus Credit Union

Canada faces two generational challenges: a housing affordability crisis and underperforming competitiveness/productivity relative to its peers within the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. Because these problems were left to fester, solving both will require investment on a staggering scale, raising crucial questions: where will the money come from and what will be the broader economic consequences.

More than a decade of house prices rising faster than income, driven by low interest rates, weak supply and strong population growth, has made housing unaffordable across much of Canada. Building new supply is the solution, and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. estimates that 4.8 million new housing units will be required over the next 10 years to reach this aim, while a more conservative estimate by the Parliamentary Budget Office puts the figure at 3.8 million units just to avoid further deterioration.

Assuming a relatively low cost per unit of between $500,000 and $750,000, including construction overhead, development charges, supporting infrastructures, etc., building 4.8 million units would cost $2.4-trillion to $3.6-trillion. Accounting for units that would have been built anyway, the extra investment required would be $1.2-trillion to $1.7-trillion. Merely closing the housing gap would still require about a third of that sum. For context, residential investment in new construction totalled about $115-billion in 2025, meaning that restoring affordability would require more than doubling the pace of investment over a decade.

Canada's dismal competitiveness and productivity record stems from decades of underinvestment in machinery, equipment and intellectual property, resulting in a stock of capital per worker that is 40 per cent below the median of the OECD's 10 most productive countries plus Australia. And the gap has been widening at a faster pace since the 2015 oil bust, with Canada's capital per worker growth trailing the average of its peers by a full percentage point each year. Higher capital stock per worker is strongly correlated with both higher productivity and higher gross domestic product per capita.

Closing half of that gap over the next 10 years would require capital stock per worker growth of 3.2 per cent to 3.5 per cent annually, compared to an average growth of 1.1 per cent since 2000. That's equivalent to $4-trillion to $4.5-trillion in investment over the next 10 years, or $2.9-trillion to $3.7-trillion in addition to what could be expected over the period. These are net figures that do not account for the investment required to offset depreciation. Even the bare minimum needed to prevent Canada's competitiveness from deteriorating further would require $1-trillion to $1.8-trillion in additional investment.

Put together, the investment needs are staggering: $6.4-trillion to $8.1-trillion in investment over the next 10 years or $4.1-trillion to $5.4-trillion on top of the status quo. To put this in perspective, Canada's nominal GDP is about $3.2-trillion, and the investment share of GDP would need to increase by about 20 percentage points from the current 23 per cent. Even doing the bare minimum to prevent a worsening of the situation would require $1.5-trillion to $2.3-trillion in additional investment, equivalent to 7 percentage points increase in investment, as a share of GDP.

Where will these trillions of dollars come from, and how will they be financed?

A fundamental principle in economics stipulates that "savings equal investment." Put differently, for someone to invest, someone must have saved to supply the capital. Corporations and government are both likely to remain net borrowers, as they will be the ones investing, leaving non-residents and households as the two sectors that must supply the savings.

Households have been net borrowers since the late 1990s and have been partly responsible for crowding out business investment since. They would need to shift toward net saving, a likely difficult and unpopular adjustment given ongoing affordability pressures and the belt-tightening required.

This leaves foreign investors, already significant net lenders, as the only sector able to meaningfully increase the savings flowing towards Canadian investment. However, further reliance on foreign investors and ownership raises the risk that Canada becomes an "extractive" economy, where profits are repatriated abroad rather than reinvested in the Canadian economy, limiting the investment's positive spillovers to the rest of the economy and potentially giving foreign investors more influence over policy decisions.

Attracting the large amount of capital required will likely necessitate higher interest rates or returns, whether to incentivize domestic savings or to attract foreign capital. However, higher interest rates risk making some needed investments uneconomical, creating a self-limiting dynamic. Containing this dynamic will require deliberate policies to promote domestic saving and investment.

There is no easy path out of Canada's predicament. Improving housing affordability and competitiveness/productivity can be within reach, but only with a scale of investment, saving, and structural adjustment that the country has not mustered in decades. Falling short means accepting Canada will continue to lag further behind its peers.

Ontario joining the 'passport' securities regulatory system is too little and not enough

JONATHAN PREECE

OPINION

Senior policy counsel at the Canadian Forum for Financial Markets

Ontario's recent commitment to joining the Canadian Securities Administrators' "passport" system has been hailed as a step toward removing interprovincial trade barriers and developing "one Canadian economy." Don't listen to the fanfare.

The passport system is designed to provide market participants with a window of access to Canada's capital markets by allowing them to interact with a single principal regulator rather than all 13 of the provincial and territorial regulators. Through this system, each market participant's principal regulator is responsible for reviewing and approving specified filings and once approved, the principal regulator's decision is mutually recognized by participating provinces and territories.

This system was developed in reaction to a series of expert reports and recommendations released in the early 2000s, which highlighted the many inefficiencies in Canada's regulatory system and reiterated calls for the creation of a national securities regulator.

In 2003, provincial ministers convened to discuss the potential for securities reform driven by the provinces and territories. This was at least partially motivated by a desire by some provincial regulators to stymie the momentum that was building for a national regulator. This led to a public consultation and the development of an action plan to identify the most pressing issues affecting Canada's regulatory system. The ones that were identified focused on costs, delays and complications for issuers and other registrants when filing and obtaining approvals from 13 different securities regulators. The passport system was proposed as the solution.

By the time this system was introduced in 2005, every province and territory had agreed to participate with the exception of Ontario, which withheld its signature as a symbolic gesture in support of developing a national regulator.

Notwithstanding this, the practical impact of Ontario's recent decision to join the passport system is overstated. This is because, despite Ontario's intentional foot-dragging, the Ontario Securities Commission and the other CSA members have developed an "interface," which emulates the benefits of the passport system.

Under this interface, every province and territory has agreed to accept OSC decisions on passport filings. In addition, although the OSC retained the discretion to conduct its own reviews, in practice, it has generally relied on reviews conducted by the other regulators in the passport system. As a result, Ontario's decision to join the passport system is largely ceremonial and will have a limited impact on reducing trade barriers.

To be sure, the passport system has benefits. It has eased the process for registering, obtaining exemptions and filing prospectuses, and it has promoted some harmonization in the application of provincial securities law. But it is not a panacea for all of the legitimate criticisms that have been levelled against Canada's regulatory system. The passport system does not, for example, improve the CSA's slow and cumbersome policy-making process nor does it address the difficulties that arise in co-ordinating between regulators in multijurisdictional enforcement. Further, this system does not grapple with the costs that arise from maintaining a regulator in each of the 13 provinces and territories, along with the Canadian Investment Regulatory Organization, which serves as a pan-Canadian self-regulatory organization.

All these regulators are financially reliant on fees from market participants, and despite the benefits of the passport system, provincial/territorial regulators continue to collect duplicative registration and participation fees from market participants.

This means that issuers offering securities across Canada have to pay multiple filing fees, and dealers operating across Canada have to pay multiple registration fees despite the fact that only one "principal regulator" is responsible for reviewing those filings under the passport system. These costs often pale in comparison to the compliance costs that are incurred by market participants in order to comply with and respond to inquiries from multiple authorities.

This fragmentation and duplication of fixed costs reduce the attractiveness of Canada's capital markets. Ontario's tokenistic decision to join the passport system does very little, if anything, to change that reality. The dissolution of interprovincial trade barriers and the development of "one Canadian economy" will require much more.

U.S. President Donald Trump greets the audience before speaking at General Motors' Milford Proving Grounds on Monday in Milford, Mich. ANDREW HARNIK/GETTY IMAGES

Keller: Trump saw Gordie Howe bridge as his latest opportunity to demand a payoff

FROM B1

The Detroit Shakedown is the latest example.

Ottawa picked up the entire $6.4-billion tab for the Gordie Howe International Bridge, and that had a sound Marshall Plan logic. Canada's cost of construction could be recouped over time through tolls, while Canada and the U.S. would both see permanent economic gains from a new bridge enabling more, faster and cheaper cross-border trade. Everybody wins.

Mr. Trump's preferred arrangement is not that. It is the win-lose of the extortion racket.

Not wealth creation – wealth appropriation.

Not "let's prosper together," but, "hands up, this is a stick up."

He saw the bridge, and his power to block its opening, as his latest opportunity to demand a payoff. He got Ottawa to agree in principle that, for the first 15 years of the bridge's life, half of all net revenues after expenses will flow into a Trump administration-controlled slush fund, with Canada only getting its full share of toll revenue after.

Because the deal is short, thin, and layered on top of the original agreement between Michigan and Canada that Mr. Trump refused to honour, it's still unclear whether Canada has given up a lot, a little, or nothing.

Because it's a Donald Deal, it's also unclear whether this 15-year deal can last even 15 weeks.

From the certainty and stability of a hegemon that practises long-time allyship, we have moved to the instability and unpredictability of America as an impatient hustler, always chasing new protection rackets, or a new chance to fleece old marks.

The President has hit other allies with similar, but far larger, shakedowns. Last year, he slapped Japan with a 15 per cent tariff and threatened worse unless Tokyo pledged to invest US$550-billion in the U.S. The terms envision Japan taking on all of the financial risk, with the U.S. taking most of the profits.

In the first year of the Trump administration, erstwhile allies were pressured into committing to invest US$5-billion in the U.S., according to the Washington-based Peterson Institute for International Economics.

It's like a Marshall Plan in reverse.

A reverse Marshall Plan is in fact what Stalin imposed on Eastern Europe. The U.S. sent aid to Western Europe; Stalin sent railcars to his newly conquered territories and carried away tribute.

Trumpian economics is not Keynesian economics or Milton Friedman economics. It's Genghis Khan economics. It's Vladimir Putin economics. It's wealth extraction, not wealth creation.

As for the funds pledged to Mr. Trump as part of his bid for a reverse Marshall Plan, very little has materialized. Japan has invested almost nothing so far. South Korea pledged $350-billion last year, and has since been dragging its feet.

Mr. Trump treats agreements as written in disappearing ink on biodegrading paper, and so do his counterparties.

In the years after the Second World War, the countries of Western Europe joined NATO and the Washington-led global trading system voluntarily and eagerly. The governments and peoples of Eastern Europe, in contrast, entered the Warsaw Pact and the Soviet economic bloc at the barrel of a gun.

Mr. Trump has dismantled the trust and goodwill that made Canadians, Europeans, Japanese and others happy to let Washington lead what we called the free world.

It can be rebuilt, but it will have to be rebuilt in a different form. Mr. Trump has removed the cornerstone.

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Brookfield commits billions for data centre in South Korea

Nvidia CEO says infrastructure will be 'needed to fuel Korea's startups and industries'

SAN FRANCISCO

Brookfield Asset Management Ltd. plans to invest up to US$9-billion in AI infrastructure as part of a partnership with **Nvidia Corp.** to expand a data centre in South Korea.

As part of the deal, Nvidia would invest US$1-billion into South Korean internet company Naver Corp., which will fund the remaining amounts to finance the project.

The expanded infrastructure will be built with Nvidia's DSX platform at Naver's GAK Sejong hyperscale data centre in Sejong, South Korea.

In a news release, Brookfield touts its artificial-intelligence infrastructure investment platforms as industry-leading, managing approximately US$100-billion of assets such as data centres, semi-conductor manufacturing and dedicated power generation.

Sikander Rashid, the private equity firm's global head of AI infrastructure, says the partnership will combine Brookfield's global AI infrastructure investment capabilities, Naver's AI and data-centre operating expertise, and Nvidia's accelerated computing platform to advance the country's AI capabilities.

Jensen Huang, Nvidia's founder and chief executive, says the trio are "building sovereign AI infrastructure at the scale needed to fuel Korea's startups and industries."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Federal Reserve chairman Kevin Warsh arrives to appear before the House financial services committee this month. Pressed for details during the hearings, he said one month of tepid inflation data did not amount to 'mission accomplished.' MARK SCHIEFELBEIN/AP

Fed: Iran war and artificial-intelligence boom are biggest wild cards the U.S. central bank is facing

FROM B1

Keeping rates unchanged would leave the Fed's policy options open while giving officials more time to see how the economy is evolving. Many expect inflation to ease in the latter half of the year. By the time the Fed meets again in September, officials will have two more months of data in hand. But inaction will put pressure on Mr. Warsh to explain how doing nothing is compatible with his recent assertion to lawmakers that the central bank has "no tolerance" for elevated inflation.

The decision before Mr. Warsh ultimately hinges on the balance he wants to strike between taking an aggressive stance in the early stages of his four-year tenure as chair and maintaining room to manouevre in an environment where the bulk of inflation is being driven by supply shocks that the central bank's tools are ill-equipped to address. If inflation was being driven by an overheating labour market, for example, instead of surging energy prices caused by the war with Iran or Mr. Trump's tariffs, the central bank would feel much more confident about its next steps.

In the lead-up to July's meeting, two policy makers indicated there was an urgency to raise rates. Lorie K. Logan, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, and Beth M. Hammack, of the Cleveland Fed, both emphasized the strain on consumers and businesses caused by elevated inflation and the potential for price pressures to further broaden out. Prices across the services sector have all risen compared with the same time last year.

Ms. Logan and Ms. Hammack contend that higher borrowing costs are necessary to achieve the Fed's 2-per-cent target. Both are voting members on this year's policy-setting committee. But many of their colleagues, including a handful of the Fed's most senior decision-makers, signalled that while they were ready to act if inflation did not soon ease, they were comfortable taking a wait-and-see approach for now. That included Philip N. Jefferson, the vice-chair, and John C. Williams, president of the New York Fed.

Christopher J. Waller, a Fed governor, put a heavy emphasis on the latest inflation data in determining the Fed's next steps. Two reports tracking consumer and wholesale prices in June came in much cooler than expected. Still, he made clear that he would need to see several months of mild data to feel confident about the outlook.

This distribution of views internally will no doubt produce the "family fight" that Mr. Warsh has long encouraged. But it also suggests that he will have latitude to pull officials in one direction or another should he choose to do so.

Mr. Warsh has opted to obscure where he stands publicly to avoid boxing in the Fed. When pressed for details during congressional hearings this month, he was explicit that one month of tepid inflation data did not amount to "mission accomplished." But in several instances, Mr. Warsh has leaned in a dovish direction.

Asked by Senator John Kennedy what he would do to address inflation, Mr. Warsh never brought up the prospect of raising rates. Instead, he said the Fed's success would be a function of it asserting the central bank's commitment to getting inflation down, taking responsibility for any failure in doing so and studying its policy tools.

When Mr. Kennedy asked how the Fed determines if inflation is temporary or persistent, Mr. Warsh invoked the five task forces he has created, which he said would "get to the big and hard questions instead of trying to paper it over with policies that have not been proven as successful."

Mr. Warsh also said that he did not view a one-time change in prices – specifically those caused by booming investment in artificial intelligence – as inflationary. "Because I think there's a supply response," he said. At the same time, however, he suggested that the Fed might view higher prices caused by a war differently, owing to the fact that this "tends to reduce the supply side of the economy."

The Iran war and the AI boom are the biggest wild cards for the Fed at the moment. Both have raised prices, but it is unclear whether that will lead to sustainably higher inflation. According to Jan Hatzius, chief economist at Goldman Sachs, temporary factors, such as tariffs, are the main drivers of recent increases in underlying inflation, and are likely to fade over time.

"Our forecast implies that hawkish talk now ultimately doesn't require a move, because inflation actually looks somewhat better as time passes," Mr. Hatzius said.

What has been hard to overlook, however, is the fact that the economy has held up relatively well despite the litany of shocks in just the past year-and-a-half. To some, that suggests the Fed will need to raise rates in order to get inflation under control.

"It's hard for me to say that the current stance of policy is restrictive given what we're seeing in the economy," said Loretta Mester, who led the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland for a decade until 2024. Raising rates would help to "bring demand into better alignment with supply," she said, while also helping to stabilize inflation expectations that appear "more fragile than they've been."

"The longer this goes on, they lose credibility if they keep saying we're going to get inflation down and then don't take action to bring it down," Ms. Mester added. The most recent slate of data gave the Fed some breathing room, but that reprieve is likely to have ended by the September meeting, she said.

NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

Brookfield: Company is one of the largest foreign investors in the Middle East

FROM B1

Investment leaders from Gulf countries have acknowledged that the crisis has disrupted some normal-course business, but they have also expressed hope that the conflict will prove to be a short-lived setback.

So far, Brookfield hasn't broken stride on its plan to increase its investments in the Middle East and expand its regional partnerships. Fundraising and joint investments in the region are a key part of a five-year plan to double the size of its private equity portfolio, which currently manages US$160-billion, compared with US$130-billion two years ago.

Brookfield is one of the largest foreign investors in the Middle East, managing a US$16-billion portfolio of private equity, real estate and infrastructure assets in the region. The company, which manages more than US$1-trillion worldwide, opened an office in Dubai in 2015 and more recently added one in Riyadh.

The fund raised with PIF and other anchor investors reflects "the global confidence and strong demand for private equity opportunities in Saudi Arabia and the region," Brookfield Corp. chief executive officer Bruce Flatt said in a statement.

Connor Teskey, the CEO of Brookfield's asset management business, said after the start of the Iran war in February that the conflict will not diminish the company's appetite to do business in the region, which he expects will play a larger role in global finance over the long term.

PIF deputy governor and head of Middle East and North Africa investments Yazeed Al-Humied said in a statement that, "Our partnership with Brookfield is designed to help anchor international private equity into Saudi Arabia and the region," and to speed up the flow of deals.

Canada's government has also courted deeper trade and investment ties with Saudi Arabia. Prime Minister Mark Carney visited the Kingdom in July and met with Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman, mending relations that became strained under the previous Liberal government, which severed some ties after the 2018 murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

On Saturday, Brookfield also announced it joined a consortium with Blackstone Inc. and KKR & Co. Inc. that is buying a minority stake in a joint venture with Kuwait Oil Company, or KOC, a subsidiary of the state-owned Kuwait Petroleum Corp., or KPC.

Kuwait Oil Co. has signed a US$16-billion lease and leaseback agreement with the investor consortium. The contract covers all 13 of the company's pipelines, and the investors will earn fees based on pipeline volumes, while KOC owns and controls the network.

The upfront proceeds to KOC from the deal will be US$7.85-billion, making the transaction the largest foreign direct investment in Kuwait's history. Brookfield's share of the consortium investment was not disclosed.

The deal "reflects confidence in Kuwait's resilience, the quality of KPC's assets and our long-term vision for the country's energy sector," KPC deputy chairman and CEO Shaikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah said in a statement.

Survey: Less than 1% of Canadian businesses plan to build U.S. operations, report says

FROM B1

Business sentiment has been deteriorating for eight consecutive quarters, dating back to the third quarter of 2024, the survey found.

Even so, very few companies plan to move their operations to the States. Over all, less than 1 per cent of businesses plan to establish U.S. operations, while just 0.4 per cent plan to acquire or partner with a U.S. business.

"Tariffs appear to be delaying Canadian investment more often than it is encouraging relocation to the United States," the chamber's report said.

The uncertainty caused by the trade war has reverberated across exporting industries, dampening business confidence and sending the economy into a mild contraction over a six-month period straddling 2025 and 2026.

Since then, the economy has stabilized. Gross domestic product has perked up in recent months, suggesting Canada is heading for annualized growth of more than 2 per cent in the second quarter. The upturn in the Canadian economy is likely to be tested by the U.S.'s recent tariff plans.

The survey found that among businesses not planning to apply for financing, 62 per cent could take on additional debt – above the survey's five-year average of 56 per cent, and suggesting that financing capacity alone does not explain Canada's weak investment performance.

> Since the survey was conducted, the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement passed its renewal deadline on July 1. The continental pact will now undergo annual reviews over the next decade, after which it will expire.

"Without stronger confidence, improved market opportunities and renewed incentives to invest, today's resilience risks giving way to a prolonged period of slower productivity, weaker competitiveness and lower long-term prosperity," Mr. Gill wrote in the report.

Since the survey was conducted, the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement passed its renewal deadline on July 1. The continental pact will now undergo annual reviews over the next decade, after which it will expire. The 50-per-cent tariffs announced last week would apply to roughly US$20-billion of imports from Canada, equal to about 5 per cent of Canada's shipments to the U.S. in 2025.

Crucially, those new duties would not exempt goods that meet the USMCA's rules-of-origin thresholds, which specify what percentage of a product must originate in North America to receive preferential tariff treatment.

"When investment waits, productivity, wages and long-term growth wait too," Mr. Gill said.

Cabot Revelstoke is transforming the B.C. mountain city into a high-end, four-season destination anchored by golf, skiing, hospitality and luxury real estate. PHOTOS BY CABOT

Resort aims to turn B.C. ski town into year-round luxury destination

Golf, hospitality and residential properties set to transform Revelstoke, which is known for heli-skiing and snow

DAVID McPHERSON

From an outpost on the transcontinental railway line in the 1880s to the heli-skiing capital of the world, Revelstoke, B.C., has evolved from a sleepy mountain town into a powdered paradise.

Located on the banks of the Columbia River – between the Monashee and Selkirk mountain ranges in southeastern B.C. – the city's population fluctuates between 8,000 and 16,000 owing to seasonal workers and attracts more than 50,000 visitors annually.

Thanks to a recently announced partnership between hospitality and entertainment company Northland Properties and luxury developer Cabot, the number of adventure-seekers and global real estate investors is set to increase exponentially in Revelstoke.

The city is evolving into a high-end, four-season mountain destination anchored by Cabot Revelstoke, an 18-hole golf course and luxury mountain hotel that's complete with restaurants and a variety of residential offerings as part of the first phase of the development's community master plan.

"Cabot Revelstoke represents a significant tourism investment in Revelstoke and is an important milestone in the continued evolution of our destination," says Ryan Melnyk, executive vice-president of commercial strategy and hospitality at Revelstoke Mountain Resort. "It reflects strong confidence in Revelstoke's future and supports our long-term vision of growing a vibrant, year-round mountain community."

SLEEPY TOWN TO POWDER PARADISE

Revelstoke was known as a sleepy mountain city until 2007 when visitors started arriving owing to a major investment from Northland Properties, whose brands also include Chop Steakhouse & Bar, Denny's Canada and Moxies.

The investment resulted in the opening of Revelstoke Mountain Resort, which included the addition of an eight-person gondola, a high-speed quad and expanded terrain for skiing.

Revelstoke Mountain Resort now features 3,121 skiable acres and 75 runs. It's known for having the longest vertical descent in North America at 5,620 feet and is considered Canada's best destination for heli-skiing and one of the top globally. Revelstoke Mountain Resort is also known for its powdery snow, with an annual average snowfall of 10.5 metres.

Top: Cabot Revelstoke marks the latest addition to the luxury developer's growing portfolio of golf, resort and residential properties around the world.

Above: The four-star Cabot Revelstoke Mountain Lodge is set to feature 155 rooms, a spa, fitness centre, restaurants and more than 6,700 square feet of conference and event space when it opens in 2027.

THE CABOT COLLECTION

When Ben Cowan-Dewar was 12 years old, he built his first golf hole on his parent's farm east of Toronto.

Since then, the Canadian entrepreneur and golf aficionado has turned that childhood dream into a growing portfolio of luxury golf and real estate properties.

Cabot began in the former coal-mining town of Inverness, N.S., with the opening of the Cabot Links golf course in 2012. Over the past two decades, the brand has evolved into a successful developer and operator of luxury residential, resort and golf properties, with projects spanning Florida, Scotland, France and Saint Lucia.

For Mr. Cowan-Dewar, Cabot's co-founder and CEO, determining where to invest starts and ends with finding the right site for a project. As the company's golf portfolio grew, he realized that real estate was a natural complement.

"Like so many things about business, we learned and listened to the market, and there was a market to buy real estate," Mr. Cowan-Dewar says. "It was not part of the original business plan when I started in Cape Breton in 2004, but now it's a big part of our business and it's been massively complementary."

As an avid downhill skier, the entrepreneur first visited Revelstoke in the winter and experienced its pristine snow and unparalleled vertical hills. While building a golf course in the mountains is challenging, Mr. Cowan-Dewar was undeterred.

"There was a little bit of serendipity," he says, adding that he was introduced by a friend to the Gaglardi family more than a decade ago. And although he wasn't actively seeking another project, he agreed to visit the property and was immediately struck by its extraordinary setting and natural beauty.

"At the end of the day, what drew Ben to Revelstoke was the opportunity to create a mountain course," adds Tom Gaglardi, chairman and chief executive of Northland Properties.

Designed by Rod Whitman of Whitman, Axland & Cutten, Cabot Revelstoke is expected to officially open around Canada Day next year. The designers worked with the natural landscape to create an 18-hole course that showcases the area's distinctive terrain.

LUXURY LODGE

The slopeside, four-star hotel dubbed the Cabot Revelstoke Mountain Lodge is currently under construction. When it officially opens in 2027, it will feature 155 rooms, a gym, spa, more than 6,700 square feet of conference and event space, a Chop Steakhouse set to open late this year and a boutique coffee shop.

The lodge will also serve as the new home for heli-skiing tour company Selkirk Tangiers Heli Skiing.

"The new lodge and its meeting and convention facilities create opportunities to attract corporate retreats, conferences, incentive travel and business events that Revelstoke has historically been unable to accommodate," Mr. Melnyk says. "These visitors often travel outside of traditional peak periods, helping to support a more balanced, year-round tourism economy."

THE FUTURE

The benefits of the Cabot-Revelstoke Mountain Resort partnership also extend throughout the community, with increased tourism supporting local businesses, creating employment opportunities and generating additional economic activity.

Beyond collaborating with Cabot on the resort and new Revelstoke residences, Northland Properties is working with local and regional governments to explore potentially expanding the Revelstoke Airport to accommodate commercial traffic.

"We're really focused on trying to make the local airport more accessible," Mr. Gaglardi says. "The dream would be to get commercial activity into that airport. We have a path for that. In the interim, the runway has been widened, but it also needs to be lengthened."

Mr. Cowan-Dewar plans to keep growing the Cabot collection.

"At 47 years old, I can't get a job doing anything else," he says. "If we keep finding remarkable locations, and I still feel like a kid when I see something amazing, that's our game plan."

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DIVIDENDS

TECK RESOURCES LIMITED (the "Corporation") Dividend Notice

NOTICE is hereby given that the following dividends have been declared:

Dividend of $0.125 per share on the Class A Common and Class B Subordinate Voting Shares of the Corporation, payable on September 29, 2026, to shareholders of record at the close of business on September 15, 2026.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Amanda R. Robinson
Corporate Secretary

July 23, 2026

GLOBE INVESTOR

What it's like to retire in a high-inflation era

Where retirees are vulnerable is in the lack of opportunities to increase income beyond inflation

ROB CARRICK

OPINION

Personal finance expert and former Globe and Mail staff columnist

The cliché of the poor senior on a fixed income is way overdone.

But inflation does bite hard when you're retired. Let me give you some examples from my life as a kind-of retiree who left full-time employment a year ago, but still works on a part-time basis. To start, our property taxes went up 3.75 per cent this year and our condo fees rose 1 per cent.

Our equal monthly billing amount for natural gas jumped 15 per cent, and property insurance for our condo edged up 3.5 per cent. Gasoline costs have gone up nearly 30 per cent over the past 12 months on average, which has hit hard because we've been driving a lot between our home in Ottawa and Toronto to visit and help aged parents. We own a hybrid vehicle, but still.

I have a system for adjusting to inflation that I'll share with you, but first let's put retiree inflation in context. First, Canada Pension Plan retirement benefits are reviewed once yearly in January to account for any increases in living costs, and Old Age Security payments are adjusted four times a year.

CPP payouts increased 2 per cent for 2026, while the Bank of Canada's inflation calculator says that a basket of goods and services costing $100 in 2025 would come in at $102.80 in 2026. An increase of 2.8 per cent, in other words.

Some defined-benefit company pensions also offer annual cost-of-living adjustments, and then there are the annual dividend increases paid by many of the blue-chip companies favoured by mature investors. For example: The widely held utility company Fortis Inc. FTS-T increased its dividend 4.1 per cent late last year, which means 52 years in a row of dividend hikes.

The typical retiree in Canada has multiple streams of income, and several of them adjust automatically to help offset higher living costs. Where retirees are vulnerable is in the lack of opportunities to increase income beyond inflation.

There are no bonuses to be earned at work, no promotions and no opportunities to move to a better-paying job elsewhere. Having a good year in your investment portfolio is not the same as getting a raise in the amount of money deposited into your bank account because it doesn't help pay the bills.

Even so, retirees cannot claim to be harder hit by inflation than parents with young kids or hungry teens. Groceries are inflation's sharp end because they're an unavoidable expense that can be addressed only to a limited extent with coupons, buying in bulk and shopping sales.

My system for dealing with inflation is to keep a spreadsheet with all our household costs broken down into monthly amounts. The spreadsheet is updated roughly twice a year – in January and then in the summer.

I also keep track of monthly income on a strict after-tax basis. After subtracting expenses from income, I can see how we're tracking on spending. Cutting costs can help bring the numbers into line, and we've done that to some extent. We eat out less than we anticipated before I retired, and we are way less interested in top-tier restaurants. We've also travelled less than expected, but that's as much due to family obligations as anything else.

On a more micro level, we trimmed our portfolio of streaming services to bring down our household expenses a bit. A bigger win was negotiating our cable-internet bill down.

After watching our bill increase steadily in the past couple of years, I literally spent the better part of a day chasing our telecom provider for a better rate. The result was a 30 per cent lower monthly cost for two years, enough savings to help pay for that higher monthly natural gas bill and a bunch more.

For a lower cellphone bill, try comparison shopping during Black Friday sales in November. I chopped my cellphone bill by almost two-thirds last fall, although I had to switch providers and then switch back to my original company to get the best deal.

One complication on cost-cutting for retirees is that it contradicts the idea of retirement as your great reward after a lifetime of hard work. It turns out that retirees have to make the same compromises as everyone else.

This health care manager earns six figures to help cover brother's future care

SAIRA PEESKER

PAYCHEQUE PROJECT

Name, age: Russ, 38
Annual income: $157,920 base salary plus frequent overtime, $15,600 from rental property
Debt: $106,000 in line of credit, $116,000 on condo
Savings: $45,000 in savings account, $160,000 in tax-free savings account (TFSA), $285,000 in registered retirement savings plan (RRSP), $40,000 in first-home savings account, $305,000 in other investments
What he does: Health care manager
Where he lives: Nunavut
Top financial concern: Making sure he saves enough to care for his brother, who has cerebral palsy. "The amount I might need is an unknown black box."

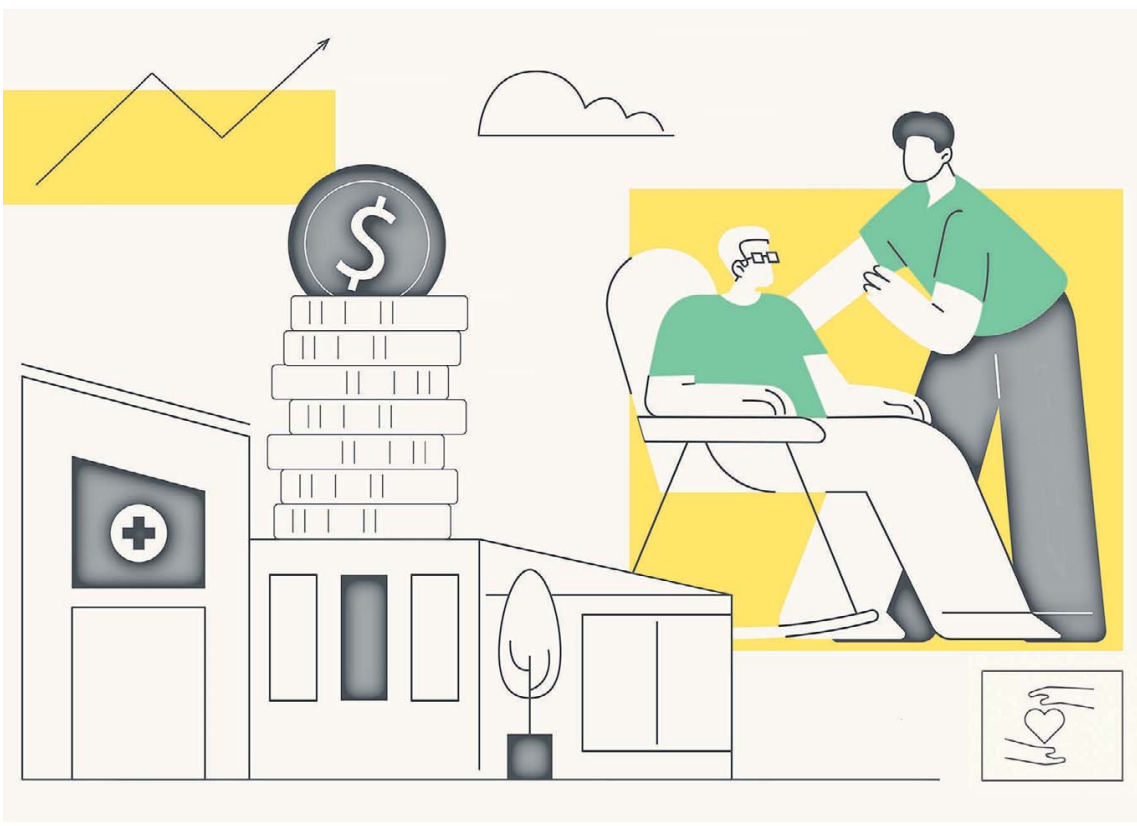


ILLUSTRATION BY THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Russ grew up in a trailer house in rural Alberta, the child of new immigrants who didn't have a lot of money.

But his parents worked hard to give their three children a good upbringing, including regular trips overseas to maintain their connection with family and the culture of their home country.

He went to university with dreams of being a doctor, but internal pressure to succeed and mental-health challenges weighed heavily on him.

"University was not a good experience for me, unfortunately," says Russ. "It took me six years. I was thinking of going to med school and it didn't work out."

Instead, he pursued a different field in health care, and moved to Nunavut for work. What he discovered is that he loves the people and landscape of the Arctic.

He has enjoyed learning about Inuit culture and hearing stories from elders, and has also met people from all over Canada and the world who have moved there to take jobs.

"There's many people here from Western African countries, a big francophone population and a lot of people from Newfoundland," he said, describing his hospital colleagues as multicultural and collaborative.

"We have this mutual respect and understanding of what we do and how important it is – like, 'let's improve health care up here' – and that's been the most rewarding part of my career."

Russ left school $100,000 in debt, but gets paid well in his field in the North. "I was only planning to stay a few years, but it became a career," said Russ, who's now a manager in his department. "I've worked my way out of debt and started building up my savings and investments. "My pay is over double what an average person in my profession makes," he said. "I am afraid I won't be able to find equivalent work when I do move back to Alberta."

Russ has a 47-year-old brother in Alberta with cerebral palsy, and expects to eventually be his main caregiver. His parents, who are 73, are starting to struggle with certain physical tasks in that role.

Russ bought a condo in Alberta to give his brother a secure place to live and is saving as much as he can because he doesn't know when his brother, who is currently healthy, may need expensive long-term care.

"We're trying to aggressively save in his RDSP," said Russ, who will spend his seven-week vacation this year working in another northern hospital to make extra money. "Private facilities could be $2,000 to 4,000 a month."

Special to The Globe and Mail

Some details may be changed to protect the privacy of the person profiled. We want to thank them for sharing their story.

RUSS'S TYPICAL MONTHLY EXPENSES

INVESTMENT AND SAVINGS: $4,653

- $803 to work pension. "Federal public service pension."
- $100 to savings account
- $583 to TFSA. "Stocks and exchange-traded funds."
- $1,100 to RRSP. "Saskatchewan Pension Plan, ETFs and stocks."
- $667 to FHSA. "I didn't use my FHSA for the condo as it's a rental for my brother."
- $400 to registered disability savings plan. "Periodic transfers to my brother's RDSP.
- $1,000 to other investments. "Using income from these to pay off the line of credit."

SERVICING DEBT: $2,210

- $505 to line of credit. "I borrowed to invest in non-registered investments."
- $1,705 to mortgage. "I own the condo where my brother lives. He's not allowed to build assets because he's on disability."

HOUSEHOLD AND TRANSPORTATION: $1,597

- $1,122 to rent. "The Department of Health provides an apartment. It comes right off my paycheque."
- $68 to home insurance. "My apartment and my brother's condo."
- $160 for utilities
- $50 to gasoline. "I don't own a car, but use a friend's."
- $50 to car maintenance. "Share maintenance for friend's car."
- $32 to cellphone
- $115 on internet. "Starlink dish."

FOOD AND DRINK: $930

- $800 to groceries.
- $100 at restaurants. "Not a lot of options here. Mostly pizza from the local place. We are very big on potlucks here."
- $30 on alcohol. "I drink very infrequently. It's expensive at the Beer and Wine Store."

MISCELLANEOUS: $7,975

- $3,900 to payroll deductions
- $482 to condo fees
- $159 to condo property tax
- $7 on CBC Gem
- $30 on apps. "Music, fitness tracking, audiobooks."
- $150 on clothing
- $200 to contact lenses
- $1,250 to vacations. "Air travel is expensive."
- $300 to donations. "A few charities monthly."
- $300 to gifts.
- $1,150 to life insurance. "Paying extra to universal life insurance to maximize the cash value."
- $30 to long-term disability insurance
- $17 to credit-card fees. "AMEX Cobalt. The points help subsidize my vacations."

BOND INVESTORS, UNSURE ABOUT FED POLICY OUTLOOK, HEDGE AGAINST U.S. RATE SHOCK

NEW YORK Bond investors, uncertain about the outlook for Federal Reserve tightening, have been paying more to protect against the possibility of a sharp rise in U.S. interest rates.

U.S. financial markets are grappling with questions about whether new Fed chair Kevin Warsh will keep the central bank focused on containing inflation, which could require rate hikes, or bow to President Donald Trump's repeated calls for rate cuts.

Activity in the interest-rate options market has shifted in recent months, with growing demand for a specific type of swaption, or an option on interest-rate swaps, that would profit if long-term borrowing costs rise.

Some are hedging against the 10-year swap rate reaching 6 per cent, more than 200 basis points higher than today's 4.23-per-cent level.

For that to happen, the Fed would have to sharply hike the federal-funds rate. Interest-rate swaps are widely used to hedge rate risk, including exposure to U.S. Treasuries. These swaps allow investors to exchange fixed-rate payments for floating-rate ones and vice versa.

Analysts say the market has moved away from strategies in which investors collect premium by selling volatility and toward buying protection against large interest-rate moves. The shift reflects not only concerns about further Fed tightening but also broader worries that long-term yields could keep rising regardless of near-term policy decisions, driven by factors such as persistent inflation and large government borrowing needs.

"The market has become more convinced of rate hikes and you're seeing that in the options market in terms of more demand for payers over receivers," said Guneet Dhingra, head of U.S. rates strategy at BNP Paribas in New York.

U.S. rate futures on Friday priced in a 36-per-cent chance of a rate increase at this week's meeting, up from 13 per cent a week earlier.

REUTERS

For Corby Spirit and Wine, market share gains follow M&A success

PHILIP MacKELLAR

OPINION

CONTRA GUYS

General manager at Contra the Heard investment newsletter

Sometimes it can take a long time for the market to recognize fundamental changes to a business. Take Corby Spirit and Wine Ltd., a TSX-listed beverage company that manufactures, markets and imports spirits, wines and ready-to-drink cocktails.

Here at Contra the Heard, we first acquired Corby in 2021 and our average purchase price is $14.82. It was bought, at least in part, to lower the portfolio's volatility, improve income generation and provide stability amid market uncertainty. Since 2021, it has provided solid dividends with low beta, but the other part of the thesis, betting on higher valuations, has not played out.

Part of the corporation's lacklustre valuation performance may have to do with the acquisition of Ace Beverage Group in June, 2023. The transaction was transformative, fundamentally altered the organization's brand assortment and primed it for growth.

However, to swallow Ace Beverage, the corporation had to increase leverage, endure a multiyear integration process and pay up. When the deal was announced, Corby had a price-to-sales ratio of 2.4 and an enterprise value/sales ratio of 2.2. By contrast, Ace was acquired at 2.6 on a price-to-sales basis, and 2.8 on an enterprise value/sales basis.

Roughly a year after the M&A, we wrote about it here at The Globe and Mail. At the time, the company was facing significant investor skepticism, and for good reason.

On the one hand, the enterprise had increased its market share across all its operating segments, expanded its operations geographically, and grown revenues more than 40 per cent one year into the merger.

On the other hand, earnings per share were flat with no EPS accretion, margins had fallen, and debt remained persistently high. The debt-to-EBITDA ratio stood at an uncomfortably high 2.1 times, compared with expectations of 1.8 times, one year out. As a result, many valuation metrics were at decade-lows, excluding the pandemic sell-off in early 2020.

Though we understood why the market was skeptical, we thought investors were being overly pessimistic. Moreover, we argued that if Corby kept growing its top-line and bottom-line expansion transpired, it would look very cheap, which should power the stock higher.

Fast forward to the present and the purchase of Ace Beverage Group has paid off. Market share and sales growth have continued, margins have started to improve and debt is coming down, yet the valuations remain low.

In the latest quarter, for example, revenues came in at $58.3-million, up 21.5 per cent year-over-year. Sales of domestic case goods jumped 35 per cent to $48.2-million, driven by ready-to-drink strength in Western Canada and Ontario. Net earnings nearly doubled to $7.9-million, and the net margin expanded to roughly 13.6 per cent from 8.4 per cent.

The dividend inched higher, while the payout ratio fell, too. The distribution was up 4.3 per cent from a year ago, and 14.3 per cent since the Ace Beverage merger announcement. Over the past year, the payout has fallen from 162 per cent to 86.2 per cent.

It is worth noting that some of the quarterly sales strength was a matter of timing rather than pure demand. LCBO shipments were pulled forward ahead of that organization's enterprise resource planning system upgrade, effectively borrowing volume from the quarter that follows. The performance was also driven by continued gains in market share, helped in part by the removal of U.S.-made products from Canadian shelves.

During the quarter, Corby's sales in the spirits category were flat in a market that declined 4.2 per cent. Revenue from ready-to-drink brands grew 22.4 per cent, versus 9.7 per cent overall in the segment, and wine rose 12 per cent against an industry-wide drop of 0.4 per cent. Not only are the gains noteworthy, but on the latest conference call in May, the executive team was keen to point out that Corby has outpaced the broader spirits market for 14 consecutive quarters.

Corby's net debt to adjusted EBITDA ended the quarter at 1.4 times, an improvement from 1.6 times at this point last year, or 2.1 times recorded at the time of our last write-up in 2024. Cash on hand, however, remains razor-thin, partly because of the cash management pool arrangement with parent company Pernod Ricard.

The C-suite forecast a softer current quarter as LCBO ordering normalizes post-ERP, and the underlying decline in the spirits market persists. Over the longer term, the executive team sounds optimistic. The main risks worth bearing in mind are the minuscule cash position, the tepid near-term guidance tied to LCBO disruption, and more competition from American brands if (or when) future trade agreements with the United States are finalized.

Risks aside, the rationale for owning Corby remains strong and we consider it a buy. Corby successfully integrated Ace Beverage and deleveraged post acquisition. It is navigating changing consumer preferences toward no- or low-alcohol options well, and it is increasing its market share, sales and margin profile simultaneously. Despite these positives, the stock is lacklustre and the valuations are low. As we wait for the market to recognize the improving fundamentals, we will sit back and collect the 6-per-cent dividend.

TSX RISES TO RECORD HIGH AS TECH SHARES JUMP

Canada's main stock index rose to a record high on Monday, led by technology shares, as the potential for a strong corporate earnings season offset recent geopolitical uncertainty. Major indexes on Wall Street closed mixed.

The S&P/TSX Composite Index ended up 199.04 points, or 0.6 per cent, at 35,568.14, moving past the record closing high it posted last Wednesday.

Celestica Inc., Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd., Magna International Inc. and Enbridge Inc. were among the major Canadian companies set to report earnings this week.

The technology sector climbed 6.9 per cent, with shares of e-commerce company Shopify Inc. up 11.6 per cent. Consumer discretionary added 2.2 per cent and heavily weighted financials ended 0.6 per cent higher.

The materials group rose 0.4 per cent. The price of gold was up 0.7 per cent as a pullback in oil prices eased concerns about the inflation outlook and the prospect of higher U.S. interest rates. U.S. President Donald Trump said that the United States was having "good talks" with Iran and there was a chance of a deal over their conflict, but warned U.S. strikes would resume if the negotiations failed to deliver.

U.S. crude oil futures settled 7.5 per cent lower at US$82.61 a barrel which weighed on energy shares. The TSX energy sector ended 2.9 per cent lower.

The yield on benchmark U.S. 10-year notes fell 3.03 basis points to 4.649 per cent, from 4.679 per cent late on Friday. Canadian bond yields were also lower. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was the best-performing major U.S. stock index.

REUTERS, GLOBE STAFF

TSX consumer stocks that could protect capital, generate dividends

BRIAN DONOVAN

NUMBER CRUNCHER

CBV, president of StockCalc, a Canadian fintech based in Miramichi, N.B.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

With the markets at or near all-time highs, is it time to shift some of our winners to more defensive names to protect capital and generate dividends? Let's look at stocks that fall into the consumer defensive (also called consumer staples) sector and what valuations and dividends are for this group.

THE SCREEN

We used StockCalc's screener to select the Top 10 listed consumer defensive stocks by market capitalization on the TSX. We then used StockCalc's valuation models to calculate fundamental (or intrinsic) valuation for each stock to see if they are undervalued or overvalued compared with current price.

Overview of the techniques used:

- Discounted cash flow (DCF value) is a valuation technique in which cash-flow projections are discounted back to the present to calculate value per share;
- A price comparables (price comps) technique values the company on the basis of ratios from selected comparable companies;
- An adjusted book value (ABV) is calculated by multiplying book value per share by its 10-year average price-to-book ratio.
- If we have analyst coverage, we may include the consensus target price in our valuation.

MORE ABOUT STOCKCALC

StockCalc is a fundamental valuation platform with tools to calculate and report on value per share for thousands of public companies listed on major North American stock exchanges. StockCalc also contains numerous tools to understand what the stocks you are investing in are worth. Globe Unlimited subscribers can subscribe to StockCalc using the promo code Globe30, which offers a 30-day free trial and special pricing for the second month.

How consumer defensive stocks stack up

NAME	TICKER	MARKET CAP ($ MIL)	RECENT CLOSE ($)	STOCKCALC VAL ($)	DIFF (%)	DCF VALUE ($)	PRICE COMPS ($)	ABV ($)	ANALYST TARGET ($)	1-YEAR RETURN (%)	DIVIDEND YIELD (%)
Loblaw Cos.	L-T	74420.5	64.35	64.81	0.7%	52.93	62.22	98.28	67.40	14.6	1.0
Dollarama Inc.	DOL-T	49150.2	184.68	167.02	-9.6%	146.86	0.00	123.13	207.63	-1.8	0.3
George Weston Ltd.	WN-T	38940.3	103.91	119.80	15.3%	185.95	119.80	133.50	108.00	16.8	1.3
Metro Inc.	MRU-T	19320.8	92.53	89.35	-3.4%	146.08	92.31	75.93	99.80	-13.3	1.8
Saputo Inc.	SAP-T	15960.1	39.95	39.23	-1.8%	65.55	24.77	35.97	47.63	38.0	1.9
Empire Co.	EMP.A-T	11170.6	50.1	48.15	-3.9%	156.43	54.59	37.12	54.29	-10.8	1.8
Molson Coors Canada Inc.	TPX.A-T	10910.0	63.10	64.68	2.5%	0.00	64.81	0.00	0.00	-17.0	4.4
Premium Brands Hldgs.	PBH-T	4617.2	88.81	94.76	6.7%	136.86	91.66	99.40	122.92	-0.2	3.8
Maple Leaf Foods Inc.	MFI-T	3490.4	27.96	28.66	2.5%	33.07	22.33	28.06	37.11	5.8	3.0
North West Co.	NWC-T	2404.0	50.66	49.94	-1.4%	173.33	49.10	40.08	58.50	9.1	3.3

Source: Stockcalc.com

WHAT WE FOUND

The consumer staples sector comprises companies in the packaged foods, grocery stores and beverages industries. The sector also includes discount stores and household and personal products. The names on the list are ones we are very familiar with.

This group of stocks collectively increased by 4 per cent on average over the past 12 months and had an average dividend of just over 2 per cent for a total return of just over 6 per cent. That compares to the broader TSX index which was up almost 30 per cent in the same time period. This sector has a beta traditionally between 0.6 and 0.8. (Beta measures how much a stock or sector's price moves compared with the overall market, which has a beta of 1.0). A beta less than 1.0 means the stock (sector) has lower highs and higher lows than the market it is compared with.

All stocks on the list pay a dividend and the analyst targets are all above current price, whereas our valuations are a mix of above and below current. Let's look at a couple of these companies.

George Weston Ltd. is a holding company that controls majority stakes in retailer Loblaw and in Choice Properties, a real estate investment trust. Loblaw boasts the largest retail footprint across Canada with more than 2,500 food retail and pharmacy stores under banners such as Loblaws, No Frills, Maxi and Shoppers Drug Mart. Choice Properties REIT owns and manages more than 700 commercial and residential properties in Canada. Our models as well as analyst consensus show upside to current price for Weston. Given our overall valuation for **Loblaw Cos. Ltd.** is near current price but our valuation for Weston is above the current price, the difference between the two must be in the value of the real estate holdings.

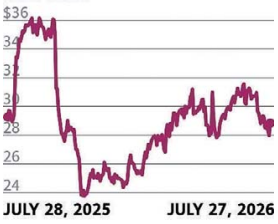
Premium Brands Holdings Corp. owns a broad range of specialty food manufacturing and food distribution businesses with operations in Canada and the United States. All of our models as well as analyst consensus show Premium Brands to be undervalued. They will be releasing second-quarter 2026 results on Aug. 6.

You can see in the accompanying table the percentage difference between each stock's recent closing price and its intrinsic value. The "StockCalc Valuation" column is a weighted calculation derived from the models and analyst target data if used.

Investing involves risk. StockCalc accepts no liability whatsoever for any loss or damage arising from the use of this analysis.

EYE ON EQUITIES DAVID LEEDER

PAST YEAR



SOURCE: BARCHART

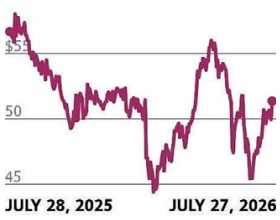
MAPLE LEAF FOODS (MFI-TSX)

CLOSE $28.83, UP 87¢

With its spin-off of Canada Packers Inc. now complete and major capex investments behind it, CIBC World Markets analyst Ty Collin sees **Maple Leaf Foods Inc.** as "a simplified CPG business with strong brands that is transitioning into a phase of enhanced cash generation."

Target: Touting "an opportunity for a valuation re-rate," Mr. Collin initiated coverage with an "outperformer" rating and $36 target, which falls $1 under the consensus on the Street.

PAST YEAR



SOURCE: BARCHART

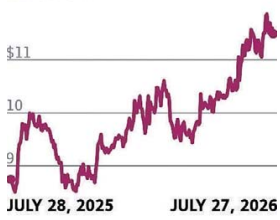
TMX GROUP (X-TSX)

CLOSE $51.35, UP $1.42

National Bank Financial analyst Jaeme Gloyn thinks **TMX Group Ltd.'s** operating results now "outweigh industry risks," leading him to upgrade his rating to "outperform" from "sector perform" previously. "We maintain a favourable view of TMX's long-term growth outlook, strong track record of strategic execution (including recent acquisitions of CBOE and RAFI) and defensive attributes," he said.

Target: His $63 target, down from $65, is under the consensus of $68.86.

PAST YEAR



SOURCE: BARCHART

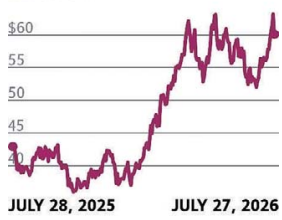
DOMAN BUILD. MAT. GRP. (DBM-TSX)

CLOSE $11.49, DOWN 11¢

Raymond James analyst Daryl Swetlishoff lowered his rating for **Doman Building Materials Group Ltd.** to "outperform" from "strong buy" based on his below-consensus earnings outlook "coupled with the stock's strong year-to-date performance despite a challenging macro backdrop."

Target: He kept a $12 target, which is 32 cents below the Street's average.

PAST YEAR



SOURCE: BARCHART

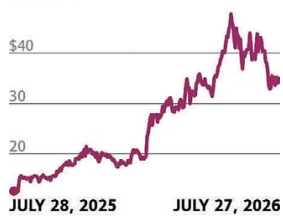
OVINTIV (OVV-NYSE)

CLOSE US$60.08, DOWN $3.05

After "solid" second-quarter results, RBC's head of Global Energy Research Greg Pardy thinks **Ovintiv Inc.'s** "streamlined portfolio, resource depth and enhanced shareholder returns point toward relative multiple expansion and continued share price appreciation."

Target: Seeing a "steep" discount, Mr. Pardy reaffirmed Ovintiv's place on the "RBC Global Energy Best Ideas List" and hiked his target to US$85 from US$70 with an "outperform" rating. Consensus is US$69.87.

PAST YEAR



SOURCE: BARCHART

5N PLUS (VNP-TSX)

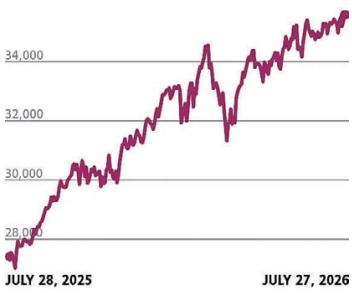
CLOSE $34.52, UP $1.02

Ventum Financial analyst Daniel Lavoie thinks **5N Plus Inc.** is "benefiting from a powerful combination of secular growth, geopolitical realignment, and supply-chain scarcity." "The Company's geographic footprint, sourcing capabilities, technical know-how, and ability to add capacity in line with customer demand have positioned it as a supplier of choice," he added.

Target: Mr. Lavoie initiated coverage with a "buy" rating and $44 target. Consensus is $46.69.

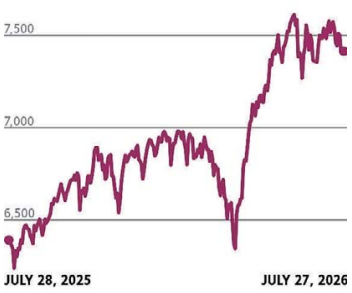
S&P/TSX COMPOSITE INDEX
PAST 12 MONTHS

35568.14 | 199.04 | 0.56 % | 12.16 % YTD | 242321 VOL(000)



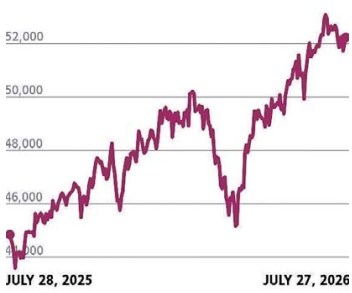
S&P 500
PAST 12 MONTHS

7413.18 | 1.20 | 0.02 % | 8.29 % YTD 3099757



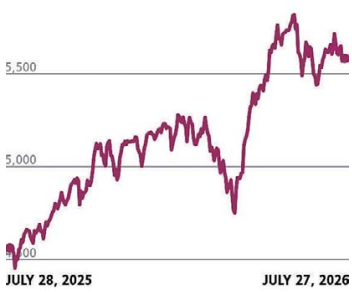
DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE
PAST 12 MONTHS

52210.08 | 262.83 | 0.51 % | 8.63 % YTD | 488373 VOL(000)



S&P GLOBAL 100 INDEX
PAST 12 MONTHS

5580.74 | 2.71 | 0.05 % | 8.45 % YTD



TSX INDEXES AND SUB INDEXES

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
TSX COMPOSITE IND	35568.14	199.04	0.56	242321	12.16
TSX 60 INDEX	2099.43	14.29	0.69	115970	12.87
TSX COMPLETION IN	2273.19	1.46	0.06	126351	9.31
TSX SMALLCAP INDE	1386.66	-3.24	-0.23	83760	15.89
TSX VENTURE COMPO	887.73	19.11	2.20	36966	-10.13
TSX CONSUMER DISC	403.92	8.54	2.16	4667	5.57
TSX CONSUMER STAP	1322.62	15.00	1.15	4439	6.82
TSX ENERGY CAPPED	417.93	-12.50	-2.90	50633	39.12
TSX FINANCIALS CA	770.60	4.43	0.58	34354	22.80
TSX HEALTH CARE C	23.56	0.10	0.43	1957	7.58
TSX INDUSTRIALS C	530.41	2.00	0.38	17368	13.58
TSX INFORMATION T	301.83	19.35	6.85	12061	-7.58
TSX MATERIALS CAP	725.08	3.06	0.42	61917	-3.28
TSX REAL ESTATE C	324.90	2.10	0.65	4249	2.69
TSX GLOBAL GOLD I	754.18	5.48	0.73	95696	-7.74
TSX GLOBAL MINING	218.48	1.66	0.77	269794	4.18
TSX INCOME TRUST	252.48	-1.56	-0.61	4798	14.64
TSX PREFERRED SHA	719.80	0.09	0.01	516	3.38
TSX COMMUNICATION	149.15	1.17	0.79	15712	-4.92
TSX UTILITIES CAP	417.04	-4.88	-1.16	11981	18.38

TSX VOLUME
TOP 20 FOR STOCKS $1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
T TELUS CORPORATI	14.69	0.29	2.01	9362	-18.79
WCP WHITECAP RESO	15.84	-0.62	-3.77	8030	37.74
IVN IVANHOE MINES	10.75	0.14	1.32	5755	-31.13
ENB ENBRIDGE INC	78.20	-2.01	-2.51	5558	19.06
CNQ CDN NATURAL R	63.26	-2.22	-3.39	5450	36.07
URC URANIUM ROYAL	3.83	-0.34	-8.15	5389	-20.87
TD TORONTO-DOMINI	168.87	-0.13	-0.08	5381	30.54
DML DENISON MINES	4.11	0.01	0.24	5380	12.91
CVE CENOVUS ENERG	39.61	-1.69	-4.09	5330	70.59
SHOP SHOPIFY INC	179.14	18.68	11.64	5309	-18.94
TRP TC ENERGY COR	96.47	-3.12	-3.13	5173	27.64
MFC MANULIFE FIN	62.19	0.63	1.02	4412	24.78
EQX EQUINOX GOLD	13.42	0.34	2.60	4340	-30.43
BTE BAYTEX ENERGY	5.86	-0.23	-3.78	4310	31.98
BNS BANK OF NOVA	122.67	-0.06	-0.05	4303	21.18
ATH ATHABASCA OIL	10.64	-0.32	-2.92	4063	51.35
RY ROYAL BANK OF	296.11	1.10	0.37	3627	26.55
ARX ARC RESOURCES	32.07	-0.62	-1.90	3604	24.54
ABX BARRICK MININ	52.77	0.43	0.82	3532	-11.74
HNU BETAPRO NAT G	7.98	-0.72	-8.28	3507	-51.04

TSX 52-WEEK HIGHS
STOCKS $1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
MMMM 3M CDR (CAD	27.75	0.75	2.78	3	9.08
AAPL APPLE CDR (C	47.50	0.48	1.02	104	22.27
BDGI BADGER INFRA	90.07	-8.30	-8.44	288	23.16
BOFA BANK OF AMER	31.18	0.24	0.78	4	11.60
BBD-A BOMBARDIER	375.57	8.12	2.21	2	61.32
BBD-B BOMBARDIER	373.41	7.17	1.96	272	59.92
BN-PF-D BROOKFIEL	22.00	0.05	0.23		1.43
BIP-PR-E BROOKFIE	26.40	0.08	0.30		1.62
CTC-A CANADIAN TI	201.91	3.05	1.53	270	16.08
CAPQ CAPITAL GROU	24.77	-0.09	-0.36		-0.08
CAPN CAPITAL GROU	25.00	0.00	0.00	1	
CVG CLAIRVEST GRO	78.95	0.95	1.22		8.15
DFY DEFINITY FINA	80.62	1.32	1.66	166	6.18
EMA-PR-E EMERA IN	21.80	0.30	1.40	3	5.93
EMA-PR-L EMERA IN	21.75	0.24	1.12	5	5.79
ENB-PR-D ENBRIDGE	24.08	0.08	0.33	2	10.16
ENB-PR-N ENBRIDGE	25.79	-0.05	-0.19	3	5.78
ENB-PF-G ENBRIDGE	24.88	0.17	0.69	5	7.80
ENB-PF-A ENBRIDGE	24.99	0.14	0.56	5	7.72
ENB-PF-U ENBRIDGE	25.08	-0.02	-0.08	1	4.37

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
GWO-PF-A GREAT WE	25.47	0.08	0.32	5	2.41
HBDV HUMILIS NORT	23.02	0.12	0.52	1	13.96
IFC-PR-E INTACT F	24.36	-0.05	-0.20	11	1.75
JPM JPMORGAN CDR	45.44	0.45	1.00	14	8.58
KBL KBRO LINEN IN	47.40	-0.09	-0.19	8	35.00
MFC MANULIFE FIN	62.19	0.63	1.02	4402	24.78
PPL-PF-A PEMBINA	26.55	0.06	0.23	4	2.67
PPL-PR-C PEMBINA	25.81	0.21	0.82	1	4.07
ZYNS PHILIP MORRI	26.95	0.30	1.13		19.83
POW POWER CORPORA	92.74	-0.16	-0.17	1207	27.13
PWF-PR-P PWR FNL	21.70	0.11	0.51	4	7.53
RFA-PR-I RFA FINA	23.25	-0.23	-0.98	2	2.20
RTX RTX CDR (CAD	50.42	1.17	2.38	4	18.05
RUS RUSSEL METALS	68.50	-2.20	-3.11	235	56.39
AAPU SAVVYLONG 2X	48.42	1.20	2.54	16	42.41
SYK STRYKER CDR (	22.81	0.43	1.92	7	13.20
SLF SUN LIFE FINA	117.20	1.20	1.03	2145	36.79
SLF-PR-D SUN LIFE	22.29	0.00	0.00	45	2.06
TRP-PR-E TC ENERG	24.95	0.00	0.00	12	6.31
TA-PR-D TRANSALTA	21.60	0.00	0.00	8	5.88

TSX GAINERS
TOP 20 FOR STOCKS $1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
BSX BELO SUN MINI	1.15	0.23	25.00	1184	112.96
SHPU SAVVYLONG 2X	8.58	1.62	23.28	106	-51.47
OILD SAVVYSHORT G	2.52	0.37	17.21	110	-84.93
MSTU SAVVYLONG 2X	3.97	0.52	15.07	274	-76.26
HOD BETAPRO CRUDE	27.78	3.53	14.56	1183	-80.81
PLTU SAVVYLONG 2X	19.16	2.30	13.64	2	-19.43
TCL-B TRANSCONTIN	7.10	0.85	13.60	1	-69.79
CSUU SAVVYLONG 2X	9.02	1.02	12.75	28	-41.16
SHHI NINEPOINT SH	7.09	0.79	12.54	18	-33.49
SHPE HARVEST SHOP	8.39	0.90	12.02	95	-36.20
SHOP SHOPIFY INC	179.14	18.68	11.64	5309	-18.94
BNKR BUNKER HILL	4.85	0.50	11.49	63	-41.78
NVDD SAVVYSHORT -	12.95	1.15	9.75	16	-26.59
GURU GURU ORGANIC	3.76	0.32	9.30	8	-24.65
BU BURCON NUTRASC	1.85	0.15	8.82	5	13.50
TRI THOMSON REUTE	137.93	10.89	8.57	1154	-23.85
HND BETAPRO NAT G	26.27	2.04	8.42	359	-30.23
MSTR STRATEGY CDR	6.78	0.52	8.31	123	-35.92
MSTE HARVEST STRA	1.96	0.15	8.29	1251	-54.42
PLTE HARVEST PALA	15.67	1.13	7.77	187	-38.81

TSX LOSERS
TOP 20 FOR STOCKS $1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
SHPD SAVVYSHORT -	10.22	-3.05	-22.98	22	-16.02
OILU SAVVYLONG GE	43.12	-8.91	-17.12	69	167.00
MSTZ SAVVYSHORT -	8.15	-1.43	-14.93	24	-62.34
HOU BETAPRO CRUDE	19.02	-3.13	-14.13	2144	116.88
AMAP	1.10	-0.15	-12.00	884	
SNDK SANDISK CDR	31.17	-3.84	-10.97	971	-3.68
COID SAVVYSHORT -	6.86	-0.84	-10.91	1	-55.05
NVDU SAVVYLONG 2X	31.60	-3.50	-9.97	64	-1.16
AMDU SAVVYLONG 2X	18.96	-2.09	-9.93	22	-12.22
ESI ENSIGN ENERGY	3.60	-0.35	-8.86	242	41.73
BDGI BADGER INFRA	90.07	-8.30	-8.44	293	23.16
GTE GRAN TIERRA E	9.50	-0.87	-8.39	32	62.12
HNU BETAPRO NAT G	7.98	-0.72	-8.28	3507	-51.04
URC URANIUM ROYAL	3.83	-0.34	-8.15	5389	-20.87
CNQU SAVVYLONG 2X	41.18	-3.48	-7.79		68.08
GASU SAVVYLONG GE	5.57	-0.47	-7.78	10	-50.04
FTT FINNING INTL	99.80	-8.10	-7.51	784	34.19
TIH TOROMONT IND	210.63	-15.14	-6.71	956	26.85
JOY JOURNEY ENERG	4.25	-0.29	-6.39	211	33.65
ASML ASML CDR (CA	46.85	-3.18	-6.36	66	57.58

TSX 52-WEEK LOWS
STOCKS $1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
AMAP AMAPA MINERA	0.11	-0.02	-12.00	884	
PAYU BROMPTON US	24.66	-0.06	-0.24	1	-1.44
PAYI BROMPTON UTI	24.61	-0.64	-2.53	2	-1.91
CAPQ CAPITAL GROU	24.77	-0.09	-0.36		-0.08
ECO ECOSYNTHETIX	2.63	-0.12	-4.36	1	-34.25
GEO GEODRILL LIMI	2.51	0.00	0.00	17	-39.37
HAI HAIVISION SYS	4.35	0.08	1.87	6	-16.98
HHII HARVEST INTE	11.51	0.11	0.96	80	-1.46
PCA PHOENIX METAL	1.19	-0.06	-4.80	109	-4.80
PWRS QUANTA SERVI	23.25	-1.03	-4.24	1	-19.38

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
SNDK SANDISK CDR	31.17	-3.84	-10.97	971	-3.68
ORBU SAVVYLONG 2X	6.01	-0.14	-2.28	13	-68.20
TSLU SAVVYLONG 2X	11.26	-0.27	-2.34	37	-60.00
GASU SAVVYLONG GE	5.57	-0.47	-7.78	10	-50.04
SHPD SAVVYSHORT -	10.22	-3.05	-22.98	22	-16.02
SPCX SPACEX CDR (	19.00	-0.30	-1.55	866	-29.71
TSLA TESLA CDR (C	26.88	-0.43	-1.57	640	-32.24
TC TUCOWS INC.	12.13	-0.15	-1.22	6	-60.10
UBER UBER CDR (CA	10.06	0.36	3.71	311	-17.54
VRT VERTIV CDR (C	21.52	-0.24	-1.10	83	-14.87

S&P/TSX COMPOSITE INDEX STOCKS
LARGEST STOCKS BY MARKET CAPITALIZATION

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
ABRA ABRASILVER R	15.33	0.29	1.93	938	43.54
AAV ADVANTAGE ENE	11.05	-0.05	-0.45	1117	-5.88
ARE AECON GROUP I	50.29	-0.02	-0.04	365	60.77
AEM AGNICO EAGLE	206.18	1.37	0.67	797	-11.42
AC AIR CANADA	24.25	0.98	4.21	2299	25.71
AGI ALAMOS GOLD I	41.95	0.22	0.53	836	-20.85
AQN ALGONQUIN POW	8.51	-0.08	-0.93	2202	0.83
ATD ALIMENTATION	89.66	0.84	0.95	730	19.61
AAUC ALLIED GOLD	29.44	0.09	0.31	1022	-6.39
AP-UN ALLIED PROP	10.37	-0.08	-0.77	390	-22.44
ALA ALTAGAS LTD.	56.23	-0.95	-1.66	613	34.36
ALS ALTIUS MINERA	58.97	0.61	1.05	361	44.39
AIF ALTUS GROUP L	46.69	1.96	4.38	156	-17.67
USA AMERICAS GOLD	5.73	0.13	2.32	1024	-18.61
ARX ARC RESOURCES	32.07	-0.62	-1.90	3604	24.54
ARIS ARIS MINING	20.99	0.31	1.50	467	-5.71
ATZ ARITZIA INC	137.80	3.30	2.45	854	17.43
ACO-X ATCO LTD. C	78.60	-1.15	-1.44	142	39.41
ATH ATHABASCA OIL	10.64	-0.32	-2.92	4063	51.35
ATRL ATKINSREALIS	89.46	2.92	3.37	504	0.97
ATS ATS CORPORATI	37.45	0.19	0.51	334	-0.95
ASM AVINO SILVER	8.05	0.10	1.26	729	-5.74
AYA AYA GOLD AND	29.05	1.26	4.53	879	47.91
BTO B2GOLD CORP.	5.45	0.01	0.18	2050	-11.81
BCE BCE INC.	30.06	-0.02	-0.07	2762	-8.19
BDGI BADGER INFRA	90.07	-8.30	-8.44	288	23.16
BMO BANK OF MONTR	252.12	1.35	0.54	1936	41.44
BNS BANK OF NOVA	122.67	-0.06	-0.05	4303	21.18
ABX BARRICK MININ	52.77	0.43	0.82	3532	-11.74
BHC BAUSCH HEALTH	6.34	0.09	1.44	357	-33.47
BTE BAYTEX ENERGY	5.86	-0.23	-3.78	4342	31.98
BIR BIRCHCLIFF EN	6.32	-0.18	-2.77	903	-15.39
BDT BIRD CONSTRUC	70.82	0.05	0.07	303	148.32
BB BLACKBERRY LIM	11.88	-0.16	-1.33	2862	129.34
BEI-UN BOARDWALK	64.85	-0.64	-0.98	94	0.57
BBD-B BOMBARDIER	373.41	7.17	1.96	297	59.92
BLX BORALEX INC.	37.03	0.02	0.05	283	46.19
BYD BOYD GROUP SE	152.25	9.27	6.48	68	-30.36
BAM BROOKFIELD AS	67.13	1.80	2.76	1598	-6.63
BBUC BROOKFIELD B	44.41	0.52	1.18	120	-9.46
BN BROOKFIELD COR	59.41	0.64	1.09	1920	-5.73
BIP-UN BROOKFIELD	57.15	-0.56	-0.97	246	19.79
BEP-UN BROOKFIELD	45.32	-1.39	-2.98	329	22.19
DOO BRP INC	87.05	1.85	2.17	670	-10.30
CAR-UN CDN APARTM	34.36	-0.66	-1.88	606	-6.81
CNQ CDN NATURAL R	63.26	-2.22	-3.39	5450	36.07
GIB-A CGI INC	98.09	4.50	4.81	728	-22.63
CRT-UN CT REAL ES	18.74	0.10	0.54	97	15.18
CAE CAE INC	36.45	0.94	2.65	1007	-12.67
CCO CAMECO CORP	126.05	2.18	1.76	986	0.29
CM CANADIAN IMPER	166.93	1.25	0.75	2656	34.16
CNR CANADIAN NATI	182.24	-0.67	-0.37	1370	34.25
CP CANADIAN PACIF	129.16	-1.16	-0.89	1280	27.82
CTC-A CANADIAN TI	201.91	3.05	1.53	270	16.08
CU CANADIAN UTILI	55.15	-0.70	-1.25	502	29.07
CPX CAPITAL POWER	70.51	-1.23	-1.71	749	20.43
CS CAPSTONE COPPE	13.13	0.18	1.39	3200	-4.72
CJT CARGOJET INC.	85.06	-0.41	-0.48	61	1.33
CCL-B CCL INDUSTR	91.65	0.95	1.05	382	5.71
CLS CELESTICA INC	449.49	19.42	4.52	518	10.71

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
CVE CENOVUS ENERG	39.61	-1.69	-4.09	5330	70.59
CG CENTERRA GOLD	23.28	0.41	1.79	498	17.81
CEU CES ENERGY SO	17.35	0.07	0.41	404	41.40
CSH-UN CHARTWELL	23.19	0.27	1.18	442	15.37
CHP-UN CHOICE PRO	16.09	0.16	1.00	492	8.64
CCA COGECO COMMUN	60.82	0.16	0.26	224	-8.50
CIGI COLLIERS INT	144.01	6.48	4.71	137	-28.62
CSU CONSTELLATION	2837.32	170.08	6.38	47	-14.06
CRR-UN CROMBIE RE	17.63	-0.02	-0.11	61	15.46
CURA CURALEAF HOL	12.63	-0.33	-2.55	155	23.46
DFY DEFINITY FINA	80.62	1.32	1.66	166	6.18
DML DENISON MINES	4.11	0.01	0.24	5380	12.91
DSG DESCARTES SYS	100.43	4.19	4.35	328	-16.59
DSV DISCOVERY MIN	8.80	0.16	1.85	987	5.01
DOL DOLLARAMA INC	187.73	3.05	1.65	531	-8.49
DPM DPM METALS IN	51.05	-1.40	-2.67	1314	20.34
DIR-UN DREAM INDU	14.58	-0.07	-0.48	293	15.90
EQB EQB INC	140.00	1.54	1.11	73	34.76
ELD ELDORADO GOLD	45.94	0.95	2.11	312	-6.87
EFN ELEMENT FLEET	31.58	0.23	0.73	985	-12.40
EMA EMERA INCORPO	76.75	-0.77	-0.99	1738	13.47
EMP-A EMPIRE COMP	50.74	0.64	1.28	682	6.33
ENB ENBRIDGE INC	78.20	-2.01	-2.51	5558	19.06
EDR ENDEAVOUR SIL	11.20	0.18	1.63	573	-13.25
EFX ENERFLEX LTD	31.83	-0.34	-1.06	913	50.43
EFR ENERGY FUELS	16.54	0.60	3.76	471	-16.80
EQX EQUINOX GOLD	13.42	0.34	2.60	4340	-30.43
ERO ERO COPPER CO	36.93	0.24	0.65	295	-4.89
EIF EXCHANGE INCO	125.92	0.32	0.25	175	53.64
EXE EXTENDICARE I	38.38	0.47	1.24	685	79.77
FFH FAIRFAX FINAN	2390.56	66.53	2.86	52	-8.61
FTT FINNING INTL	99.80	-8.10	-7.51	784	34.19
FCR-UN FIRST CAPI	22.96	0.06	0.26	229	21.48
AG FIRST MAJESTIC	22.88	-0.11	-0.48	1755	-0.09
FM FIRST QUANTUM	38.40	-0.12	-0.31	2994	4.35
FSV FIRSTSERVICE	198.02	4.22	2.18	174	-7.23
FTS FORTIS INC	82.43	-0.56	-0.67	1570	15.51
FVI FORTUNA MININ	12.11	0.02	0.17	334	-9.96
FNV FRANCO-NEVADA	302.72	-0.40	-0.13	396	6.40
FRU FREEHOLD ROYA	16.65	-0.31	-1.83	832	9.61
GMIN G MINING VEN	43.56	0.56	1.30	408	4.99
GFL GFL ENVIRONME	55.07	-0.94	-1.68	582	-6.60
GEI GIBSON ENERGY	30.40	-0.71	-2.28	412	21.02
GIL GILDAN ACTIVE	71.61	1.13	1.60	629	-16.53
GRT-UN GRANITE RE	98.16	0.50	0.51	52	20.13
GWO GREAT-WEST LI	91.88	-0.52	-0.56	802	35.74
HPS-A HAMMOND POW	269.92	-4.62	-1.68	60	69.25
HWX HEADWATER EXP	13.13	-0.34	-2.52	1215	40.13
HR-UN HR REAL EST	11.15	-0.03	-0.27	164	8.99
HBM HUDBAY MINERA	31.57	0.03	0.10	1914	15.85
H HYDRO ONE LIMIT	59.79	-0.40	-0.66	523	9.43
IAU I 80 GOLD COR	1.90	-0.01	-0.52	634	-5.94
IAG IA FINANCIAL	207.02	1.92	0.94	388	16.41
IMG IAMGOLD CORP	20.78	0.12	0.58	2664	-8.26
IGM IGM FINANCIAL	84.34	1.05	1.26	356	36.45
IMO IMPERIAL OIL	177.72	-3.57	-1.97	744	49.87
IFC INTACT FINANC	298.13	4.67	1.59	506	4.34
IPCO INTERNATIONA	30.71	-1.03	-3.25	407	23.68

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
IIP-UN INTERRENT	13.54	0.01	0.07	647	2.65
IVN IVANHOE MINES	10.75	0.14	1.32	5755	-31.13
JWEL JAMIESON WEL	42.39	1.52	3.72	76	25.97
KNT K92 MINING IN	22.99	0.58	2.59	549	1.32
KEL KELT EXPLORAT	9.71	-0.39	-3.86	657	26.60
KEY KEYERA CORP	59.50	-1.21	-1.99	890	35.23
KMP-UN KILLAM APA	18.61	-0.25	-1.33	238	13.48
KXS KINAXIS INC	157.27	9.67	6.55	72	-9.13
K KINROSS GOLD CO	33.77	0.11	0.33	3174	-12.65
LIF LABRADOR IRON	25.97	0.03	0.12	144	-13.06
LB LAURENTIAN BAN	40.33	0.04	0.10	258	0.07
LSPD LIGHTSPEED C	14.53	0.56	4.01	723	-12.26
LNR LINAMAR CORP	102.79	1.20	1.18	112	23.90
LAC LITHIUM AMERI	4.11	0.12	3.01	750	-31.16
L LOBLAW CO	64.97	0.62	0.96	846	4.71
LUG LUNDIN GOLD I	81.27	1.89	2.38	455	-28.72
LUN LUNDIN MINING	35.69	-0.25	-0.70	1760	20.98
MG MAGNA INTERNAT	94.83	2.28	2.46	648	29.60
MFC MANULIFE FIN	62.19	0.63	1.02	4412	24.78
MFI MAPLE LEAF FO	28.83	0.87	3.11	235	15.64
MDA MDA SPACE LTD	42.18	0.46	1.10	809	58.33
MX METHANEX CORP	76.57	-2.15	-2.73	263	40.65
MRU METRO INC	93.44	0.91	0.98	742	-5.42
MAU MONTAGE GOLD	16.59	0.19	1.16	395	67.91
MTL MULLEN GROUP	28.18	-0.55	-1.91	631	79.03
NA NATIONAL BANK	228.42	1.02	0.45	1309	32.33
NXE NEXGEN ENERGY	13.11	0.22	1.71	1423	3.80
NFI NFI GROUP INC	25.85	0.22	0.86	190	66.56
NGEX NGEX MINERAL	26.14	-0.35	-1.32	364	2.11
NPI NORTHLAND POW	21.63	-0.45	-2.04	746	21.18
NG NOVAGOLD RES I	8.42	0.06	0.72	637	-34.22
NTR NUTRIEN LTD	95.30	-0.83	-0.86	1891	12.49
OR OR ROYALTIES I	41.74	0.61	1.48	443	-14.15
OGC OCEANAGOLD CO	34.12	0.55	1.64	615	-12.29
ONEX ONEX CORPORA	109.04	2.40	2.25	75	-3.47
OTEX OPEN TEXT CO	33.37	1.81	5.74	865	-25.35
OLA ORLA MINING L	13.39	0.32	2.45	1548	-27.46
PAAS PAN AMERICAN	62.28	0.19	0.31	996	-12.48
POU PARAMOUNT RES	29.57	-0.73	-2.41	135	22.24
PXT PAREX RESOURC	23.09	-0.50	-2.12	742	25.15
PPL PEMBINA PIPEL	70.53	-1.91	-2.64	2351	34.88
PPTA PERPETUA RES	25.79	0.65	2.59	123	-22.39
PEY PEYTO EXPLORA	25.67	-0.46	-1.76	1061	13.03
POW POWER CORPORA	92.74	-0.16	-0.17	1207	27.13
PSK PRAIRIESKY RO	34.43	-0.68	-1.94	337	27.38
PBH PREMIUM BRAND	91.03	2.22	2.50	164	-10.50
PMZ-UN PRIMARIS R	23.14	0.12	0.52	199	48.43
QBR-B QUEBECOR IN	65.98	0.64	0.98	483	27.62
RBA RB GLOBAL INC	164.29	6.85	4.35	202	16.26
QSR RESTAURANT BR	105.24	2.93	2.86	950	12.36
RCH RICHELIEU HAR	35.72	0.35	0.99	80	-9.71
REI-UN RIOCAN REA	22.50	-0.11	-0.49	518	20.32
RCI-B ROGERS COMM	46.35	0.15	0.32	2879	-10.54
RY ROYAL BANK OF	296.11	2.86	0.98	3627	26.55
RUS RUSSEL METALS	68.50	-2.20	-3.11	235	56.39

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
SAP SAPUTO INC.	40.85	0.90	2.25	709	-1.11
SEA SEABRIDGE GOL	37.02	0.35	0.95	44	-9.02
SES SECURE WASTE	23.13	-0.38	-1.62	436	33.93
SHOP SHOPIFY INC	179.14	18.68	11.64	5309	-18.94
SIA SIENNA SENIOR	23.05

SPORTS

Calgary's speed skating oval getting $52M for renewal ■ B12

Centenarian golfer can be found out on the course every day ■ B15

BLUE JAYS VS. NATIONALS

Mad Max is back on the mound

Toronto Blue Jays starter Max Scherzer makes a pitch during the third inning against the Nationals at Nationals Park on Monday in Washington. Scherzer, who has been out with an injury since June 10, made the start on his 42nd birthday against the franchise he helped lead to the 2019 World Series. Toronto won 3-2. For the game story, go to ■ GLOBESPORTS.COM

GREG FIUME/GETTY IMAGES

Son of Kansas City OC charged with shooting his mother

DAVE SKRETTA ST. JOSEPH, MO.

The son of Kansas City assistant coach Eric Bieniemy has been arrested and charged with the shooting of his mother, Mia Bieniemy, the wife of the team's offensive co-ordinator, authorities in Virginia said Monday.

The Loudon County Sheriff's Office said deputies responded late Sunday to a shooting in Ashburn, Va., where the couple still had a home from Bieniemy's time coaching the Washington Commanders. They found the 57-year-old Mia Bieniemy with multiple gunshot wounds, and she was transported to a hospital where she was in stable condition Monday.

Elijah Zion Bieniemy, the 27-year-old son of the couple, was arrested early Monday in connection with the shooting. He has been charged with malicious wounding, use of a firearm in commission of a felony and discharge of a firearm inside a dwelling, and is being held without bond at the Loudoun County Adult Detention Center.

The sheriff's office said the investigation was ongoing.

Eric Bieniemy was with Kansas City at training camp in St. Joseph, Mo., earlier Sunday. He was not present for Monday's workout involving rookies, quarterbacks and a few veterans, which was closed to the public.

"Our hearts go out to Eric Bieniemy and his family. Thoughts and prayers with them," Kansas City coach Andy Reid said afterward. "I can't get into details on it, but things happen sometimes, and Eric will work through it. He has a great support group here, as does his family, as needed, and we'll just let time take care of it from there. But Mia is stable, which is a plus.

"She's a saint, we all know that, those of you that know her. One of God's great blessings," Reid added. "But things happen. And you have to work through it. That's where we're at right now. Time will have to be involved in this to help heal."

> "Our hearts go out to Eric Bieniemy and his family. Thoughts and prayers with them.
>
> **ANDY REID**
> KANSAS CITY COACH

Reid did not know how long Bieniemy would be away from the team. Pass game co-ordinator Joe Bleymaier and offensive line coach Andy Heck will take over his duties as the team continues with offensive installations during training camp.

"On these things, real life. So you take care of that," Reid said. "We'll be able to keep it moving here, but the most important thing is E.B. has an opportunity to spend some time there [to] take care of that business."

Eric Bieniemy was part of Reid's initial staff in Kansas City in 2013, and spent five seasons as the running backs coach before he was promoted to offensive co-ordinator. Over the next five seasons, the demanding but popular Bieniemy helped Kansas City reach three Super Bowls and win two of them while directing one of the NFL's best offences.

He interviewed for several head-coaching jobs but was continually skipped over, so Bieniemy went to the Commanders in 2023 in hopes of burnishing his résumé. But the team struggled and coach Ron Rivera's staff was let go, and Bieniemy spent one season as the offensive co-ordinator at UCLA before spending last season as the running backs coach with the Bears.

Bieniemy returned to Kansas City this season to replace Matt Nagy as the offensive co-ordinator. He was present for off-season workouts in Kansas City over the summer, and he was with the team when it began to report to training camp last week. The team is off Tuesday. The first full-squad workout at Missouri Western State University is Wednesday.

"It's great to have [Bieniemy] back in the building," Reid said last week. "He always brings great energy. I've told you, he's one of the more phenomenal guys I have been around at being a leader of men. He is doing that. He's in there cranking – works his tail off, and I appreciate that. Doesn't let anything slide by. Does a good job with that."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Infantino attacks critics in open letter for 'spreading hate and false rumours'

GRAHAM DUNBAR
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

One week after the World Cup final, FIFA president Gianni Infantino attacked perceived critics for "spreading hate and false rumours" about the tournament.

Infantino praised FIFA for "delivering the best show in the world" and spoke of the World Cup bringing "joy and togetherness," in a 900-word statement published across a 15-page post on his Instagram account and on FIFA's website late Sunday.

"Sorry that you were so consumed by hate and criticism that you missed it all," the FIFA leader wrote, addressing his comments to "those behind their pens and papers, behind their screens spreading hate and false rumours."

FIFA and Infantino faced criticism during the World Cup for Iran team officials, a Somali referee and fans being denied entry to the United States; alleged political influence by U.S. President Donald Trump in letting Folarin Balogun avoid a ban for a red card; unprecedented high ticket prices and commercialized breaks in play midway through each half of all 104 games.

"Every city was packed with fans from all around the globe," Infantino wrote. "While they celebrated, you were busy planting seeds of hate."

"While you hide, we are exploring the streets of Canada, Mexico, and the United States, talking with fans, engaging with people, and ensuring everyone's safety."

Infantino has an increasingly testy relationship with media during the 11th year of his presidency. His eve-of-tournament news conference in Mexico City was his first with a full gathering of international media since March, 2023.

The previous such news conference in Rwanda, after his re-election by acclaim from FIFA member federations, saw Infantino ask his audience: "Why are you so mean?"

In Mexico City last month, Infantino suggested critics should "chill, relax."

And he's coming under scrutiny from some in the U.S. Congress. Rep. Jamie Raskin of Maryland, the top Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, sent Infantino a letter on Sunday seeking documents detailing ties between FIFA and the Trump administration. A representative for FIFA didn't immediately respond to a request for comment on the letter.

Iran's ability to play at least three games in the U.S. was a key pretournament issue, and the squad made a late switch to a training camp in Tijuana, Mexico instead of Tucson, Ariz.

"Iran entered the United States without incident or conflict," Infantino noted in his statement.

"While you spread hatred, we worked tirelessly to unite two countries at war."

Fans denied visas to enter the U.S. included Michel Nkuka Mboladinga, the celebrated statue supporter of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which was dealing with an Ebola virus outbreak. He attended one game in Mexico.

"You mentioned the few people denied visas and overlooked the millions who were approved, from all parts of the world," Infantino wrote. "Countries facing serious health issues or other challenges were granted visas."

On fallout from the red card for U.S. forward Balogun, Infantino claimed "subsequent decisions not to ban players in certain situations are routine."

FIFA did not overturn Balogun's red card, which does occur in domestic club competitions, but instead took the more unusual step of deferring the one-game ban for a probationary period. FIFA has yet to publish the written verdict of its disciplinary judge.

"To those spending their time and energy hating us, please take a moment to reflect, meditate, pray, or watch a football match and truly observe the faces, the eyes, the emotions," Infantino wrote.

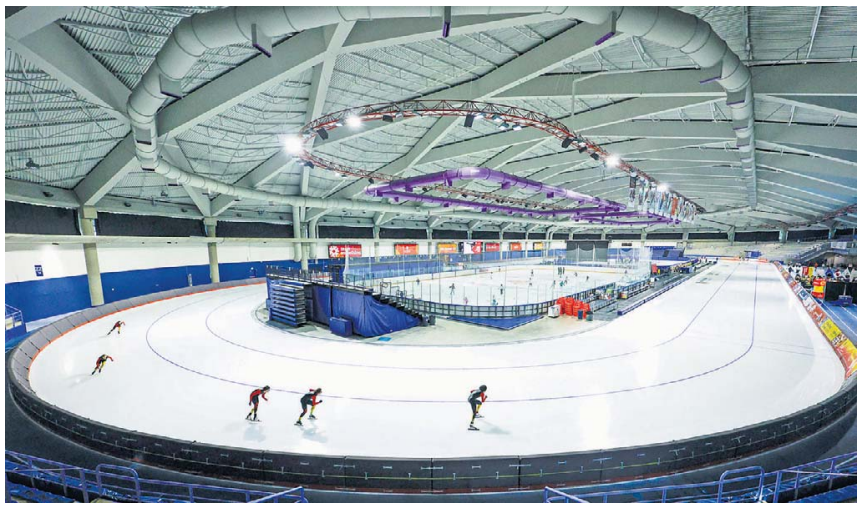
He signed off his statement: "Much love to all."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Calgary's Olympic Oval to get $52-million upgrade

Athletic training venue has produced scores of Canadian Olympians since its debut at the 1988 Winter Games

DONNA SPENCER CALGARY



Speed skaters train at the Olympic Oval in Calgary on Monday. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Calgary's Olympic Oval is getting an upgrade.

The federal and provincial governments are equally splitting a $52-million contribution to the renewal of the speed skating facility built for the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary.

The federal government also announced Monday an additional investment of $7.67-million into ski racing and snowboard facilities in Quebec, Yukon, Alberta and B.C., as well as a $3-million top-up to the Athletic Assistance Program, which provides Canada's high-performance athletes monthly cheques to help pay their bills.

"This is not just a good day for Canadian sport or speed skating in Canada. This is a good era of Canadian sport because we're making the largest investments our country has ever seen in sport from the playground to the podium, from the people and the places and everything in between that sport requires to continue being Canada's greatest nation-building project," secretary of state for sport Adam van Koeverden said Monday in Calgary.

"The Calgary Olympic Oval has produced an extraordinary and probably immeasurable number of Olympic medals, but also memories, heroes and beyond that, I understand you can fit more than a dozen volleyball courts in there. A lot of kids have learned how to skate here as well.

"It's a tremendously important asset to our community and our country."

The oval on the University of Calgary campus was completed in 1987 for $40-million and was the Olympic speed skating venue the following year.

It's been a community, university and high-performance athletic facility and the home of the national speed skating team for almost four decades.

Canadian speed skaters who trained there have produced 40 Olympic medals, with Catriona Le May Doan, Cindy Klassen, Clara Hughes, Denny Morrison, Jeremy Wotherspoon, Isabelle Weidemann and Ivanie Blondin among its alumni.

Almost a dozen players on Canada's Olympic women's hockey teams, including Hayley Wickenheiser, played club hockey at the oval.

But the oval's ability to make ice is nearing end of its life because of brine leaks among the 400 aging pipe connections under its large floor.

"People came together to save this facility, and it would not have survived, and speed skating would have had to move out of Calgary," double Olympic gold medalist Weidemann said.

"The fact that we get to continue the legacy that was grown from the '88 Olympics, I have chills. I'm really overwhelmed by the community that's come together to save it."

A new running track and improved accessibility for people using mobility aids are other oval needs, according to its director, Mark Messer.

Fundraising for another $13-million to complete those elements is ongoing, he said, but Monday's announcement means jackhammers can hit the floor in January of 2028 for what's expected to be a nine-month replacement.

"We can't really get at it until January of 2028 to do the floor, but that is a priority," said Messer, who has worked at the Oval since its inception. "That's where things are deteriorating rather quickly.

"This 52 [million], that'll save us. We know now we can do the project."

The venue's location on the university campus had made applying for government funding complex because it was considered an educational institution.

But it's been able to access $26-million from the federal government's $51-billion "Build Communities Strong Fund" for projects across the country, as well as provincial money.

"This facility is truly a multisport facility. We have judo, volleyball, other competitions here," Alberta sport minister Andrew Boitchenko said. "It's definitely worth investing in and keeping it going.

"We've had it here since '88, and hopefully we'll have it here another 40, 50 years because having such a beautiful big building where people can come and do all these events and competitions is so important for Calgary, the province and for Canada."

Added van Koeverden: "I've been meeting with Minister Boitchenko for the last year or so. In those engagements, we've talked about the most important investments that we are going to collectively make in sport and the Calgary Olympic Oval has been top among those priorities."

Dubbed "the fastest ice in the world" with help from Calgary's altitude and dry climate, over 300 speed skating world records were set in Calgary by Canadian and international skaters.

But Salt Lake City's younger oval has recently gained the upper hand in the long-standing contest between the two venues for world records.

Calgary's is the oldest of Canada's three indoor ovals.

Quebec City's Centre de glaces Intact Assurance, which opened in 2021 for $68.7-million, has hosted international speed skating competitions.

The $44-million Pomeroy Sport Centre in Fort St. John, B.C. opened in 2010.

The feds will also invest just over $4-million into snowboard facilities in Quebec, Yukon and Alberta, and $3.65-million into ski racing facilities in Alberta and B.C.

The Athlete Assistance Program, or "carding," envelope increased to $43-million annually for Olympic and Paralympic athletes, who each currently receive about $2,175 monthly.

About 1,900 athletes in more than 90 sport disciplines are approved for AAP annually.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	62	43	.590	—
New York	59	46	.562	3
Boston	54	50	.519	7½
Baltimore	51	55	.481	11
Toronto	48	58	.453	14
CENTRAL DIVISION				
Chicago	55	49	.529	—
Cleveland	54	53	.505	2½
Minnesota	53	54	.495	3½
Detroit	50	56	.472	6
Kansas City	45	62	.421	11½
WEST DIVISION				
Texas	54	52	.509	—
Houston	52	55	.486	2½
Seattle	52	55	.486	2½
Athletics	44	61	.419	9½
Los Angeles	42	64	.396	12

Monday
Texas 7, Seattle 3
Baltimore at Detroit
N.Y. Yankees at Chicago White Sox
Houston at L.A. Angels
Boston at Athletics

Sunday
Tampa Bay 1, Cleveland 0
Boston 6, Toronto 1
Kansas City 5, Detroit 4
Chicago White Sox 12, Houston 3
Minnesota 11, Athletics 8
Seattle 6, Texas 4

Tuesday
All Times Eastern
Baltimore (Kremer 1-3) at Detroit (Melton 5-1), 6:40 p.m.
Texas (Quantrill 3-3) at Tampa Bay (Jax 6-7), 6:40 p.m.
Cleveland (Williams 10-5) at Cincinnati (Singer 5-9), 7:10 p.m.
Kansas City (Lugo 4-6) at Minnesota (Bradley 9-4), 7:40 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (Cole 3-5) at Chicago White Sox (Kay 7-4), 7:40 p.m.
Houston (Lambert 8-5) at L.A. Angels (Detmers 3-7), 9:38 p.m.
Boston (Bennett 6-3) at Athletics (Jump 3-6), 9:40 p.m.

INTERLEAGUE

Monday
Toronto at Washington
Cleveland at Cincinnati

Sunday
Atlanta 3, Baltimore 2, 11 innings
L.A. Angels 4, San Francisco 3
Philadelphia 11, N.Y. Yankees 4

Tuesday
All Times Eastern
Toronto (Bieber 2-1) at Washington (Cavalli 7-4), 6:45 p.m.
Seattle (Castillo 3-9) at L.A. Dodgers (Lauer 5-5), 10:10 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	62	43	.590	—
Philadelphia	57	49	.538	5½
Washington	54	52	.509	8½
Miami	52	54	.491	10½
New York	44	62	.415	18½
CENTRAL DIVISION				
Milwaukee	66	39	.629	—
Chicago	59	46	.562	7
Pittsburgh	54	52	.509	12½
St. Louis	53	52	.505	13
Cincinnati	49	55	.471	16½
WEST DIVISION				
Los Angeles	67	39	.632	—
Arizona	55	51	.519	12
San Diego	53	53	.500	14
San Francisco	44	61	.419	22½
Colorado	42	65	.393	25½

Monday
Arizona at Pittsburgh
Philadelphia at Miami
Atlanta at N.Y. Mets
Chicago Cubs at St. Louis
Milwaukee at San Francisco

Sunday
Pittsburgh 8, Chicago Cubs 7
San Diego 5, Miami 3
Washington 10, Arizona 7
N.Y. Mets 8, L.A. Dodgers 3
Milwaukee 11, Colorado 2
Cincinnati 5, St. Louis 3, 10 innings

Tuesday
All Times Eastern
Arizona (Pfaadt 5-1) at Pittsburgh (Chandler 3-8), 6:40 p.m.
Philadelphia (Nola 3-8) at Miami (Alcantara 10-6), 6:40 p.m.
Atlanta (Sale 11-6) at N.Y. Mets (Scott 3-2), 7:10 p.m.
Cleveland (Williams 10-5) at Cincinnati (Singer 5-9), 7:10 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Rea 7-7) at St. Louis (McGreevy 4-8), 7:45 p.m.
Colorado (Lorenzen 3-9) at San Diego (King 6-7), 9:40 p.m.
Milwaukee (Henderson 4-1) at San Francisco (Roupp 7-8), 9:45 p.m.

CFL

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	PF	PA	Pt
Montreal	7	6	1	239	204	12
Hamilton	7	3	4	167	190	6
Toronto	7	3	4	220	219	6
Ottawa	6	0	6	153	213	0

WEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	PF	PA	Pt
Edmonton	7	6	1	203	172	12
Saskatchewan	6	4	2	204	169	8
Winnipeg	7	4	3	185	208	8
Calgary	7	3	4	278	244	6
British Columbia	6	1	5	152	182	2

WEEK EIGHT
Bye: Ottawa
Sunday
Montreal 31 Hamilton 18

WTA TOUR

MUBADALA CITI DC OPEN

Monday
At Washington DC, United States
Purse: $2,488,125
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor
MEN'S
SINGLES — ROUND OF 32
Alejandro Tabilo, Chile, def. Tallon Griekspoor, Netherlands, 7-6 (3), 4-6, 6-4.
Lorenzo Musetti (4), Italy, def. Matteo Arnaldi, Italy, 6-0, 3-1, ret.
Taylor Fritz (3), United States, def. Zizou Bergs, Belgium, 6-3, 6-4.

DOUBLES — ROUND OF 16
Edouard Roger-Vasselin, France, and Hugo Nys, Monaco, def. Albano Olivetti and Theo Arribage, France, 3-6, 7-6 (3), 10-7.
Nikola Mektic, Croatia, and Austin Krajicek, United States, def. Brandon Nakashima, United States, and Rafael Jodar, Spain, 6-4, 6-4.
Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori (1), Italy, def. Alexander Erler, Austria, and Robert Cash, United States, 6-4, 6-4.
Christian Harrison, United States, and Neal Skupski (2), Britain, def. Diego Hidalgo, Ecuador, and Ben Shelton, United States, 6-2, 3-6, 10-7.

WOMEN'S
SINGLES — ROUND OF 32
Leylah Fernandez (7), Laval, Que, def. Magda Linette, Poland, 6-1, 6-4.
Elisabetta Cocciaretto, Italy, def. Clara Tauson, Denmark, 4-6, 7-6 (2), 7-6 (2).
Emma Navarro (8), United States, def. Sofia Kenin, United States, 6-0, 7-5.

DOUBLES — ROUND OF 16
Andreja Klepac, Slovenia, and Makoto Ninomiya, Japan, def. Lea Ma and Carolyn Ansari, United States, 6-3, 6-7 (6), 10-6.
Venus Williams, United States, and Diana Shnaider, Russia, def. Ulrikke Eikeri, Norway, and Quinn Gleason, United States, 6-3, 6-4.
Alana Smith and Clervie Ngounoue, United States, def. Ann Li, United States, and Clara Tauson, Denmark, 6-2, 4-6, 10-3.

SPORTLIGHT

JULY 28

1913 — The United States wins its first Davis Cup since 1902 by beating Britain three matches to two.
1928 — The Summer Olympics open in Amsterdam and the Olympic flame is lit for the first time.
1929 — The Chicago Cardinals become the first NFL team to train out of state, holding camp in Michigan.
1972 — The American Basketball Association announces the NBA's Buffalo Braves will relocate to San Diego and are renamed the San Diego Clippers.

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
Nashville	17	12	2	3	33	12	39
Miami	17	11	2	4	43	30	37
New England	16	9	5	2	26	19	29
Chicago	16	8	6	2	30	22	26
N.Y. City F.C.	17	7	6	4	30	23	25
Charlotte	17	7	6	4	28	25	25
Cincinnati	17	6	6	5	41	42	23
N.Y. Red Bulls	17	6	7	4	26	37	22
D.C.	17	5	5	7	24	27	22
Orlando	17	6	9	2	28	44	20
Columbus	17	5	8	4	24	26	19
Toronto	17	3	7	7	23	31	16
Montreal	17	4	10	3	22	33	15
Philadelphia	17	3	10	4	22	31	13
Atlanta	17	3	11	3	17	30	12

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
Vancouver	16	10	3	3	37	16	33
San Jose	17	10	4	3	35	20	33
Los Angeles F.C.	18	10	5	3	34	18	33
Salt Lake	16	8	6	2	28	24	26
Houston	16	8	6	2	23	24	26
Dallas	17	7	5	5	32	25	26
St. Louis	17	7	6	4	23	23	25
Seattle	16	7	6	3	19	20	24
Minnesota	17	6	6	5	19	24	23
Portland	17	6	8	3	31	32	21
L.A. Galaxy	18	5	7	6	24	29	21
San Diego	17	5	7	5	31	28	20
Colorado	17	6	10	1	26	25	19
Austin	17	4	8	5	22	35	17
Kansas City	17	4	11	2	18	44	14

MLS ALL-STAR BREAK
At Charlotte, N.C.
Tuesday
All Times Eastern
Skills Challenge, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday
MLS All-Stars vs. LIGA MX All-Stars, 8 p.m.

2026 COMMONWEALTH GAMES

MEDAL STANDINGS

At Glasgow, Scotland
Through Monday's events

Nation	G	S	B	Tot
Australia	26	13	20	59
England	8	13	11	32
Canada	7	8	6	21
Scotland	5	4	2	11
South Africa	3	3	5	11
Nigeria	6	4	0	10
India	2	5	3	10
New Zealand	1	4	3	8
Wales	0	2	5	7
Malaysia	3	0	2	5
Kenya	1	2	2	5
Jamaica	2	0	0	2
Cyprus	0	1	1	2
Northern Ireland	0	1	1	2
Ghana	0	1	0	1
Jersey	0	1	0	1
Samoa	0	1	0	1
Uganda	0	1	0	1
Nauru	0	0	1	1
Papua New Guinea	0	0	1	1

NSL

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
Ottawa	13	10	2	1	30	15	31
Montreal	13	7	3	3	24	13	24
Toronto	12	5	4	3	17	13	18
Halifax	13	5	6	2	15	12	17
Vancouver	13	5	7	1	20	30	16
Calgary	12	0	10	2	9	32	2

Sunday-Monday
No Games Scheduled.

Tuesday
All Times Eastern
Calgary at Toronto, 7 p.m.

CPL

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
Hamilton	13	11	1	1	23	8	34
Calgary	13	8	2	3	23	7	27
Ottawa	14	6	5	3	22	25	21
Vancouver	14	6	6	2	21	15	20
Halifax	15	4	7	4	20	24	16
Quebec	12	4	6	2	18	23	14
Toronto	12	3	5	4	15	25	13
Victoria	13	0	10	3	15	30	3

Note: Three points awarded for a win, one for a tie.
Monday
No Games Scheduled.

Sunday
Hamilton 3 Toronto 1
Ottawa 3 Victoria 2

Tuesday
All Times Eastern
Quebec at Calgary, 9 p.m.

CANADIAN CLUB SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

QUARTERFINALS

SECOND LEG
Tuesday, Aug. 11
All Times Eastern
Atletico Ottawa (CPL) at Supra du Quebec (CPL), 7 p.m.
(Supra du Quebec leads on 3-2 aggregate)

TELEVISION

TUESDAY (ALL TIMES EASTERN)

BASEBALL
MLB: Toronto vs. Washington, SN Ontario, East, West, Pacific, 6:30 p.m.
MLB: N.Y. Yankees vs. Chicago White Sox, SN 1, 7:30 p.m.

BASKETBALL
WNBA: Connecticut vs. Washington, NBA TV Canada, 7:30 p.m.
WNBA: Toronto vs. Minnesota, TSN 4, 5, 8 p.m.
WNBA: New York vs. Los Angeles, NBA TV Canada, 10 p.m.

SOCCER
NSL: Calgary vs. Toronto, SN 1, 7 p.m.

TENNIS
ATP: Washington, TSN 3, 11 a.m., 6 p.m.

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	17	10	.630	—
Atlanta	16	10	.615	½
New York	15	12	.556	2
Washington	14	12	.538	2½
Toronto	10	16	.385	6½
Chicago	9	18	.333	8
Connecticut	7	20	.259	10

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	22	6	.786	—
Golden State	19	8	.704	2½
Las Vegas	18	8	.692	3
Dallas	18	9	.667	3½
Portland	11	16	.407	10½
Los Angeles	10	16	.385	11
Phoenix	10	18	.357	12
Seattle	6	23	.207	16½

Monday
No games scheduled.

Tuesday
All Times Eastern
Connecticut at Washington, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Indiana at Seattle, 9:30 p.m.
New York at Los Angeles, 10 p.m.
Portland at Las Vegas, 10 p.m.

WNBA SCORING LEADERS
At the All-Star Break

	GP	FG	FT	Pts	Avg
A. Wilson, LV	24	224	153	626	26.1
K. Mitchell, Ind	27	219	117	629	23.3
B. Stewart, NY	26	182	162	548	21.1
M. Mabrey, Tor	25	172	98	524	21.0
C. Clark, Ind	23	151	121	483	21.0
P. Bueckers, Dal	25	199	78	522	20.9
K. Copper, Phx	27	184	141	553	20.5
A. Gray, Atl	26	167	118	497	19.1

CEBL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Scarborough	22	18	4	.818	—
Brampton	21	10	11	.476	7½
Niagara	22	10	12	.455	8
Montreal	22	9	13	.409	9
Ottawa	22	9	13	.409	9

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Vancouver	22	14	8	.636	—
x-Winnipeg	22	13	9	.591	1
x-Saskatoon	21	10	11	.476	3½
x-Edmonton	22	9	13	.409	5
Calgary	22	7	15	.318	7

Monday
No Games Scheduled.

Sunday
Edmonton 100 Calgary 89
Niagara 106 Ottawa 102
Scarborough 91 Montreal 87

Tuesday
All Times Eastern
Vancouver at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.

RESULTS AS OF MONDAY, JULY 27, 9:30 P.M.

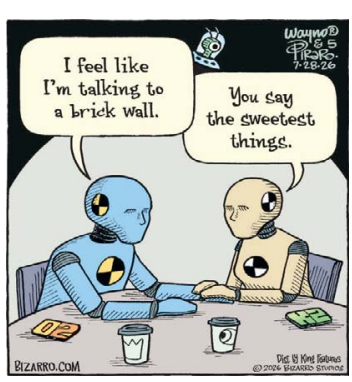
CORNERED

"Last quarter we decided to go for broke. Well, mission accomplished."

OFF THE MARK

SPEED BUMP

BIZARRO



Jets' Glenn, Bucs' Bowles and Bengals' Taylor among NFL coaches facing hot-seat pressure

Slow starts to the 2026 season could lead to quick change on the sidelines in several markets

DENNIS WASZAK JR.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers head coach Todd Bowles, right, watches players practice last month. Despite winning three NFC South titles in his four seasons in Tampa, Bowles's job could be on the line if the team struggles this season. CHRIS O'MEARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The heat is on several NFL coaches – and it has nothing to do with the soon-to-be steamy dog days of training camp.

The regular season is still more than six weeks away, but some coaches already face questions about their job security.

For a few, such as the New York Jets' Aaron Glenn, Tampa Bay's Todd Bowles and Cincinnati's Zac Taylor, slow starts could make their seats pretty toasty early in make-or-break seasons. For some others, such as Green Bay's Matt LaFleur and Philadelphia's Nick Sirianni, there's not immediate pressure, but that could change if their squads don't live up to lofty expectations and team owners ponder franchise-altering decisions.

TODD BOWLES, BUCCANEERS

Through four seasons with Tampa Bay, Bowles is 35-33 in the regular season and has won three NFC South titles. But last season's collapse, during which the Buccaneers went 2-7 down the stretch to finish 8-9 and miss the playoffs, had some thinking Bowles's days with the team were done.

Instead, the Bucs opted to stick with him. He'll likely need double-digit wins, a rebound performance from quarterback Baker Mayfield under new co-ordinator Zac Robinson and some postseason success to stay around. The Bucs' defence – which Bowles calls himself – also must be much improved.

DAVE CANALES, PANTHERS

Carolina made the playoffs for the first time since the 2017 season, but did so with an 8-9 record. The Panthers started 1-3 before three straight victories, and then alternated losses and wins over the next eight games before dropping its last two and backing into the playoffs, where the Panthers lost in the wild-card round.

Canales is 13-21 in his first two seasons in Carolina, which hired him in large part to develop Bryce Young into a quarterback worthy of his No. 1 overall selection in the 2023 draft. But Young has been up and down. Canales handed off play-calling duties to offensive co-ordinator Brad Idzik and his job could depend on Young finally showing consistent progress this season.

AARON GLENN, JETS

The former Pro Bowl cornerback returned to New York as a head coach to lead the Jets back to respectability. Instead, Glenn became the first in team history to lose his first seven games in his debut season with the team, which went 3-14 and missed the playoffs for the 15th straight year.

Glenn overhauled his coaching staff and hired Frank Reich to run the offence and Brian Duker was brought in as the defensive co-ordinator, but Glenn will now make the play calls for a subpar defence that became the first to not get an interception for an entire season. New York traded for Geno Smith as a bridge to the team's future QB. Another losing season will put the Jets in play to draft one early next year, but Glenn might not be around in that scenario.

MATT LAFLEUR, PACKERS

Wait, how's he on this list? LaFleur has made the playoffs six times in seven seasons, is 76-40-1 in the regular season and got a multiyear contract extension in January.

But he has only one playoff win since 2021 and his 3-6 record in the postseason has some Packers fans getting restless. A four-game losing streak to end the regular season and a first-round playoff exit at Chicago – during which Green Bay blew a 15-point lead in the fourth quarter – didn't help.

With the Packers expected to again be playoff contenders with quarterback Jordan Love leading the way, LaFleur's job status likely won't be an issue until January. Things could go from lukewarm to sizzling, though, if Green Bay doesn't win at least one postseason game.

NICK SIRIANNI, EAGLES

Similar to LaFleur, Sirianni's job would seem to be in no immediate danger. He has a Super Bowl victory, two NFC championship wins, three NFC East titles and a 59-26 regular-season record in his five years.

There was major disappointment last season, though, after the Eagles lost at home to San Francisco in the wild-card round. A bounceback performance, including a solid postseason run, is expected, even without A.J. Brown as Jalen Hurts's go-to receiver in new co-ordinator Sean Mannion's offence.

Sirianni was on the hot seat entering the 2024 season after the Eagles started 10-2, faded down the stretch and got blown out by Tampa Bay in the wild-card round. He followed that by leading Philadelphia to a Super Bowl victory. Sirianni and the Eagles – and their fans – would certainly sign for a repeat of that rebound.

SHANE STEICHEN, COLTS

Steichen was mentioned as a potential AP coach of the year as the Colts got off to an 8-2 start. Then, quarterback Daniel Jones was lost for the season with a torn Achilles tendon and Indianapolis lost its last seven games – even after bringing Philip Rivers out of retirement – to miss the playoffs.

Owner Carlie Irsay-Gordon was encouraged by the team's strong first half, though, and decided to keep the coach in place. Steichen is 25-26 in his three seasons with the Colts, who have missed the playoffs the past five years. With Jones healthy and signed to a two-year extension, Steichen would feel a lot more secure if the Colts resemble the promising team through 10 games last season.

ZAC TAYLOR, BENGALS

The Bengals have been notoriously slow starters in September under Taylor, but opened last season 2-0 and appeared on their way to putting that narrative to rest. A turf toe injury sidelined quarterback Joe Burrow for nine games and Cincinnati crawled to a 6-11 finish and a third straight season without a playoff appearance.

A healthy Burrow is paramount to the success of the Bengals, whose Super Bowl trip in the 2021 season is becoming a distant memory. A revamped defence, including acquiring defensive tackle Dexter Lawrence, should help. So it'll be on Taylor, in his eighth season with Cincinnati, to break the playoff slump or that might be someone else's task next year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Elks' receiver Mack has Randy Moss moment in win over Riders

DAN RALPH

Austin Mack had a Randy Moss moment Thursday night.

The veteran CFL receiver had a tidy four catches for 173 yards and two touchdowns in the Edmonton Elks' 36-34 road win over the Saskatchewan Roughriders. Mack came close to mimicking Moss's iconic 1998 rookie performance when he had just three catches for 163 yards and three TDs in the Minnesota Vikings' 46-36 victory over the Dallas Cowboys.

"Yeah, it was [a dream game], it would be for any receiver," Mack said in a telephone interview. "To have that type of production, definitely one of the best of my career so far up here."

Mack's first TD grab covered 57 yards in the third quarter before he took a Cody Fajardo pass 81 yards late in the fourth. Still, Edmonton (6-1) needed Vincent Blanchard's 57-yard boot on the final play to earn a third straight victory and move four points ahead of Saskatchewan (4-2) atop the West Division.

The two teams meet again Saturday at Commonwealth Stadium.

Fajardo finished 25-of-32 passing for a career-best 510 yards with four TDs.

The 6-foot-1, 208-pound Mack is in his first season with Edmonton and leads the team in receiving (34 catches, 579 yards, five TDs). The Elks are looking to earn their first playoff berth since 2019.

The former Ohio State Buckeye signed with Edmonton in late January, just three days after being released by Montreal. Mack, 28, spent his first three CFL campaigns with the Alouettes but was let go ahead of a reported $45,000 bonus that was due Feb 1.

The move to Alberta reunited Mack with Fajardo – they helped Montreal win the '23 Grey Cup. But it has also provided Mack, his wife, Joye, and their two young daughters with a comfortable landing spot.

"When I got to free agency, it was with my family in mind," Mack said. "I wanted to go somewhere that cared about them."

Rankin was Edmonton's offensive catalyst early this season, rushing for 100 or more yards in four of its first five games while adding 26 catches for 297 yards. Rankin has cooled off (48 yards rushing on 19 carries, nine catches for 73 yards over the Elks' last two games) but others have stepped up.

"It's all about how a season develops," Mack said. "Early on, you see honest boxes, and when we see that, Justin will take the ball to the house every single time, so we're going to definitely try to exploit that.

"As we continue through the season, teams aren't going to want to lose to that. So we've got to be able to maximize the game plan, and you're seeing us start to do that."

And for a receiver, it's understanding there are more ways to contribute offensively than with catches.

"The first two games of the season we knew we were going to run the ball; everybody in the stadium did," Mack said. "I had two pancake blocks after those two games; I was out here trying to pancake guys.

"There are so many other ways how you can impose your will on an opponent, not just catching the ball."

Edmonton last posted a .500 regular-season mark in 2018 (9-9).

"There are guys here who want to play together, who want to work together," Mack said. "I know culture and identity are a big part of what you try to build in a winning organization, and that's something we have this year."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pirlo out of running for Italy job amid flap over deal with Russian betting firm

ANDREW DAMPF ROME

Andrea Pirlo is out of contention for the Italy job amid political concerns over a sponsorship deal with a Russian betting firm.

The flap over Pirlo reportedly has Paolo Maldini considering stepping down just 16 days into his new job as the technical director charged with restoring order for the Azzurri.

This after Pep Guardiola and Carlo Ancelotti had already turned down offers to coach a national team that has failed to qualify for three straight World Cups.

The crisis surrounding Italy's once-proud squad is expanding to new dimensions four months after the four-time World Cup champion was beaten by Bosnia-Herzegovina in a qualifying playoff.

Pirlo himself confirmed that he was out in an Instagram post Monday, saying he "heard last night that I'm no longer the candidate for the Italy national team job."

Several Italian politicians had raised concerns about Pirlo's contract to be an ambassador for Fonbet, saying the national team coach should not have conflicting views on Italy's support for Ukraine in the war with Russia.

Pirlo, who had been prepared to leave his current job as coach of Dubai United, was an unpopular choice after unsuccessful stints coaching Juventus and Sampdoria – despite having been one of the standout players when Italy last won the World Cup in 2006.

Pirlo said the Fonbet deal was linked to his job in the United Arab Emirates and is "exclusively for commercial and sports" purposes.

"Attributing a political significance to that collaboration means attributing beliefs to me that I have never expressed and don't belong to me," Pirlo added. "My love for Italy doesn't depend on a job. It's part of my history, my identity and it will remain forever."

Pirlo was at best a third choice after Brazil coach Ancelotti and former Manchester City manager Guardiola turned down offers from Maldini and special adviser Leonardo.

But Pirlo was preferred by his former AC Milan teammate Maldini ahead of figures like former Italy coaches Roberto Mancini and Antonio Conté because he was seen as someone more willing to adapt to new policies and promote younger players in an attack-minded system.

Gennaro Gattuso, another former Milan player, left as Italy's coach by mutual consent in April after the defeat in Bosnia.

Now Mancini and Conté are back being discussed for the job, while Maldini is reportedly upset that Pirlo was turned down.

The final decision lies with Italian soccer federation president Giovanni Malagò, who was elected in June after leading the Milan Cortina Olympics organizing committee and, previously, the Italian Olympic Committee.

Mancini coached Italy to the European Championship title in 2021 then failed to get the Azzurri to the following year's World Cup before bolting to take over Saudi Arabia's national team. He left Saudi Arabia in 2024 and was most recently coach at Al-Sadd in Qatar.

Conté coached Italy to the quarter-finals of the 2016 European Championship and was most recently at Napoli.

Another option could be former Inter Milan coach Simone Inzaghi, who is currently coaching in the Saudi league.

Whoever gets hired will be Italy's fourth coach in as many years.

When Luciano Spalletti was fired after Italy lost its opening qualifier to Norway last year, Claudio Ranieri turned down an offer to replace him and the much less experienced Gattuso was hired instead.

Italy next plays in September and October, when it will face Belgium, Turkey and France in the Nations League.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Katzberg wins gold for Canada in hammer throw; gymnasts collect six medals

Lia-Monica Fontaine, Jordan Carroll and Félix Dolci all take gold in gymnastics

Canadian Lia-Monica Fontaine scored 14.000 in the women's vault to beat England's Abigail Martin (13.799) and Wales' Abigail Roper (13.433).
MATTHEW CHILDS/REUTERS

Hammer throw champion Ethan Katzberg added another major title to his collection while Canadian gymnasts racked up six medals on a banner day at the Commonwealth Games on Monday.

Katzberg, a two-time world champion and Paris 2024 Olympic gold medalist, won the men's hammer throw title with a Games-record 80.97 metres on his first attempt at Scotstoun Stadium.

The 24-year-old from Nanaimo, B.C., moved one step up the podium after claiming Commonwealth silver in 2022. Rowan Hamilton of Chilliwack, B.C., won bronze with 75.36, finishing behind Iosif Kesidis of Cyprus (76.97)

Earlier on Monday, Lia-Monica Fontaine, Jordan Carroll and Félix Dolci captured gold medals in gymnastics.

Fontaine scored 14.000 in the women's vault to beat England's Abigail Martin (13.799) and Wales' Abigail Roper (13.433).

The 16-year-old from Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, Que., earned her third medal of the Games after taking bronze in the all-around final and helping Canada claim silver in the women's team event.

"I'm really happy to be representing Canada and winning three medals is incredible," she said.

Carroll, a 20-year-old from Saskatoon, won the men's pommel horse title with a score of 15.000 to edge Scotland's Reuben Ward (14.966) and Cameron Lynn (13.833).

"Breaking the 15 mark, it's been a goal of mine and I'm glad I could finally do it," Carroll said. "I did the routine of my life, I'm happy with the result and I'm feeling great right now."

Dolci capped the day with gold in the men's rings final for his third medal of the Games.

The 24-year-old scored 13.766 to edge fellow Laval, Que., native William Émard (13.600) as Canada finished one-two on the podium. Australia's James Hardy took bronze with 13.500.

Dolci redeemed himself after settling for silver in the all-around final due to falling from the pommel horse twice. He then just missed the podium in the individual floor with another stumble.

"I fail many times in my life, non-stop. I fail every single day in training. That's something I'm used to," he said. "Whether you succeed or you fail, the next time you go up in the event, the goal is to do even better every single time."

Canadian veteran Ellie Black of Halifax added silver in the women's uneven bars, one day after winning her second career Commonwealth Games all-around title. Ren Cournoyer of Repentigny, Que., also earned silver in the men's floor exercise.

The five-day gymnastics competition wraps Tuesday at Glasgow International Arena.

In weightlifting, Ann-Sophie Taschereau of Plessisville, Que., claimed silver in the women's 58-kilogram category while Rebeka Groulx of Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville, Que., won bronze in the women's 53kg event.

Canada added a pair of medals in Para athletics.

Michael Barber of Victoria finished second in the men's 1,500-metre T20 final with a time of 4:01.84, and Zachary Gingras of Markham, Ont., won bronze with a personal best of 11.55 seconds in the men's 100 T38 final.

Canada now owns 21 medals – seven gold, eight silver, six bronze – to rank third behind Australia and England.

In other results, the Canadian men's and women's wheelchair basketball teams fell to 1-2 in pool play with respective losses to Australia.

The Canadian men lost 20-12 to defending champion Australia before the women's team dropped a 12-10 decision in overtime.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tempo emerge from all-star break in tough spot to try to make playoffs

JOHN CHIDLEY-HILL

The Toronto Tempo resume their season with a stop in Minneapolis against the league-leading Minnesota Lynx on Tuesday night.

Here's what you need to know about the Tempo when they return from the WNBA all-star break.

MABREY STARRING FOR TEMPO

Shooting guard Marina Mabrey has been the breakout star of the Tempo's inaugural season. She's averaging 21 points, 3.6 assists and 3.4 rebounds per game this year. Her 3.3 three-pointers per game are the most in the WNBA. She had 23 points, including 5-for-12 shooting from beyond the arc, for Team Coop in a 129-122 loss to Team Spoon at the WNBA All-Star Game on Saturday.

INJURY BUG IS FEASTING

Toronto's starting lineup has yet to play a game together in the team's inaugural season. Starting guard Brittney Sykes (left plantar fascia) has been out since June 16 and there's no set timetable for her return. Head coach Sandy Brondello was more optimistic on Sunday about forward Kiki Rice (ankle sprain), who has been out since June 3. Rice participated in a full practice on Monday morning and was listed as questionable for Tuesday's game in Minnesota.

UP AGAINST THE CLOCK

The Tempo (10-16) sit 10th in the league standings with 18 games left in the season. Toronto trails the eighth-place Washington Mystics (14-12) for the final playoff spot. The Tempo have the second-hardest strength of schedule in the WNBA with an average win percentage of .552. That includes four games against the top two teams in the league: Minnesota and the Golden State Valkyries.

A MOVE TO SCOTIA

Scotiabank Arena will host the Tempo's next two home games, first on Thursday against the Lynx and again on Aug. 18, with Caitlin Clark and the Indiana Fever visiting. That arena has nearly 12,000 more seats than Toronto's usual home venue of Coca-Cola Coliseum. The Tempo's first game at Scotiabank Arena – home of the Raptors and Maple Leafs – was an 89-80 loss to the Phoenix Mercury in front of 15,687 fans on June 27.

COACH IS BACK

Tuesday's game will see Brondello return to the Tempo's bench after a one-game suspension for referring to Atlanta Dream forward Angel Reese as a "protected species." The comment, picked up by the broadcast after Reese drew a foul on Toronto player Nyara Sabally, quickly drew criticism.

Brondello, a former player who has won two WNBA titles, is Australian. The "protected species" phrase is used in Australian sports to express frustration over a lack of calls against a player. However, in the U.S., the phrase suggests that someone isn't human and could be seen as derogatory toward Black people. Brondello apologized the next day, which Reese accepted, saying she appreciated the league's swift action.

THE CANADIAN PRESS, with files from The Associated Press

Braves manager Weiss blames limit on pitchers for roster churn

NOAH TRISTER

The Atlanta Braves called up right-hander Elieser Hernández from the minor leagues and a few days later he finally appeared in his first big league game since 2024.

After throwing three scoreless innings in relief and earning the win at Baltimore, he was immediately designated for assignment.

"I hate it, to be honest with you," Braves manager Walt Weiss said. "I wish the rules were different."

What Atlanta did is fairly common now. If a pitcher works several innings of relief – even if he does so effectively – keeping him is essentially wasting a roster spot for the next couple days. So a fresher arm is brought in to replace him.

Baseball's union is proposing rule changes related to this type of roster churn. The players want pitchers optioned shortly after an outing of at least nine outs or 50 pitches to get major league pay and service time for the four days following the appearance. The union is also proposing to reduce the number of optional assignments to the minors from a maximum of five per season to three.

That wouldn't necessarily have helped Hernández, since he was designated for assignment, not optioned. Weiss didn't mention the option rules but instead took aim at the limit of 13 pitchers on a roster.

"I wish the number of pitchers weren't restricted," Weiss said Saturday. "I think if you were able to carry an extra pitcher here and there, you wouldn't have to do those things – have to DFA a guy that was one of the heroes of the game last night. We want to be able to reward those guys, not DFA them."

TRIVIA TIME

Jacob Misiorowski of the Milwaukee Brewers struck out the first seven hitters he faced – and 12 of the first 13 – on Sunday against Colorado. He's now up to 185 strikeouts this year, an average of 13.88 per nine innings.

The single-season record for strikeouts per nine innings (with a minimum of 100 innings) is 13.82. Who holds it?

PERFORMANCE OF THE WEEK

Dylan Cease threw a one-hitter in Toronto's 6-0 win over Boston on Saturday. He was the first Toronto pitcher to throw a one-hit shutout since Brandon Morrow in 2010.

Cease threw a no-hitter two years ago, but he was with San Diego then.

Earlier this month, he took a no-hitter into the ninth at San Francisco, but he was pulled after it was broken up.

COMEBACK OF THE WEEK

Houston trailed the Chicago White Sox 5-0 before scoring eight runs in the top of the sixth Friday night. The Astros went on to win 9-5.

Christian Walker hit a three-run double to make it 5-4, and one out later Cam Smith hit a two-run homer that put Houston ahead to stay.

TEAM OF THE WEEK

(This honour goes to the team with the best record over the past seven days, using run differential as a tiebreaker if need be. A tiny sample, yes, but this is basically the amount of time it takes to win a playoff series.)

The Tampa Bay Rays went 6-1 this past week and are still holding off the New York Yankees atop the AL East. The Rays lead by three games.

Tampa Bay took three of four at Toronto before sweeping three against Cleveland, shutting out the Guardians in the final two games.

The Rays are extremely likely to make the playoffs in some fashion for the first time since 2023. The question now is whether they can pull off a deadline deal that helps them outlast the Yankees and the surging Red Sox for a division title and first-round bye.

TRIVIA ANSWER

Gerrit Cole of the Houston Astros struck out 326 in 212⅓ innings in 2019.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Plush dragon flies off shelves after appearing in Jays homer celebration

TARA DESCHAMPS TORONTO

For years, Simply Wonderful Toys has stocked a plush red dragon on a stick. The toy has a light-up flame coming from its mouth and a mighty roar, and was a reliable seller with a few getting scooped up annually.

But in early July, the Guelph, Ont., store and many other Canadian toy shops sold out of the dragon overnight.

Driving the unexpected surge in demand was an unlikely source: the Toronto Blue Jays. The Major League Baseball team celebrated left fielder Jonatan Clase's three-run homer against San Francisco with the red dragon on July 7.

By the next morning, stores that stocked the toy had been cleaned out.

Keeley Cea, an assistant manager at Simply Wonderful Toys, said the few the shop had in stock were bought in the wee hours of the morning.

"We had no idea what was going on," she said. "Then we saw the videos of the game and realized that it was the same dragon that we have been selling for years, so it was kind of a shock."

The store has requested more from Schylling, the Massachusetts-based manufacturer, which did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the dragon's recent popularity.

When the restock does arrive, Cea says Simply Wonderful Toys already has a wait-list of people wanting one. Some are from local baseball teams looking to celebrate with their own dragon.

Lifelong Blue Jays fan Adira Winegust went in search of the dragon soon after spotting it with Clase.

"I thought, oh my god, I have to get this now," recalled the Kingston mother of three.

"There's one independent toy store and they were sold out already, but with some sleuthing, I found that there was one in Ottawa."

Winegust's younger children have since been playing with it at home while her eldest, eight-year-old Emmett Glatt, lends it to his baseball team.

Their mom bought the dragon just in time. Most online retailers' websites show they have completely sold out and the few available on resale platforms are going for as much as $200.

Toy Town in Toronto is one of the few places with the dragon still in stock.

Owner Shari Bricks says her store sold out of the handful of dragons she had after the Jays debuted the toy. It recently restocked, but only has six left.

"It's calmed down a little bit, but when people see them in the store, they'll comment, and if they have a loved one that they know would love it, they'll pick it up," Bricks said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

At 103, Omaha man is a daily presence on local golf course

Bob Walls took up golf after he retired and has made it a way of life, even as a centenarian

ERIC OLSON OMAHA, NEB.

Bob Walls, a 103-year-old golfer, tees off on the third hole at Steve Hogan Golf Course in Omaha, Neb., on Friday. ERIC OLSON/AP

Bob Walls was getting set to tee off on the first hole at his home course last week when his partners interrupted his preshot routine.

"Get back here, man," James King said.

"We're playing blues today," Dawn Dozier added.

Walls wasn't having it.

"When you're over 100, you can hit from anywhere you want," he told them.

Then, with a silky smooth swing from the forward white tees, he thwacked the ball down the right side of the fairway just short of the green on the 180-yard hole.

Not bad for a 103-year-old. Actually, pretty incredible.

A record 6.3 million Americans 65 and older played golf in 2025, the National Golf Foundation reported this month. The NGF does not track the number of centenarians, but there undoubtedly are few, if any, who play as well and as often as Walls.

Walls is fit and trim and looks 30 years younger. He has survived a heart attack, has had multiple heart surgeries and overcame a transient ischemic attack (mini stroke). He credited good genes – both of his parents lived into their late 90s – for his longevity, along with staying active.

The notion that he's a freak of nature doesn't register with him.

"I don't feel 103. I don't act 103," he said. "To me it's no big deal."

Born in St. Marys, Kan., in 1923, Walls moved to Omaha in 1947 after he served in the Second World War. He spent most of his working years owning and operating a janitorial service.

He retired at 74 and, with friends' encouragement, took up golf. Steve Hogan, who was Nebraska's first Black PGA professional, taught Walls how to play at what was then Miller Park. The two became close friends, and Walls honours Hogan's memory by volunteering seven days a week at the course, which was renamed Steve Hogan Golf Course after his death in 2008.

Walls spends five or six hours riding around in his open-top cart with a bucket of seed-and-sand mix on the passenger side. He fills divots and repairs ball marks, picks up trash and fishes other golfers' errant shots out of the lagoon with his ball retriever.

Always strapped on the back of the cart is his golf bag, because he never knows when the mood will strike to stop and play a hole or maybe work on his game.

Outside the clubhouse are a couple of training devices Walls made to help young players get a feel for the golf swing arc. He has worked with kids in the First Tee program and gives lessons to adults for US$50 per hour. The course holds an annual tournament, the Bob Walls Invitational, to raise money for equipment for neighbourhood kids.

When he gets home from the course each day, he often gets on his iPad and watches hours of training videos.

"When I visited him for his 101st birthday, I wasn't even in the door and the first thing he said to me was that he was breaking down his whole game, changing this, changing that," Dozier said. "He's always working on his game."

Walls has still got plenty of game. He regularly shoots in the low 30s on the par-three Hogan course. In fact, the other day he shot 31 to win a match against course manager Mike Rice.

"The first time I beat him – and I haven't beaten him very often – I had to have a hole-in-one to do it," Rice said. "Who'd ever thought a 103-year-old gentleman could knock a ball 180 yards consistently every day and have enough energy and strength to do it?"

Walls spends the fall and winter in Phoenix and is on a course or practice range every day there, too.

"Golf is the first thing I think about when I wake up in the morning," he said.

He fusses over his stance, swing plane and the direction his shoulders are pointing at his finish. Recently, he's been working on getting more consistent with his lob wedge so he doesn't have to rely so much on his sand wedge.

"He's going to hit right down the middle and the next shot is going to be on the green," King said. "He's not going to do anything to hurt himself. Sweet and easy. That's what I love about his game. And he practices, too. Every day he hits a few balls, and I know he does because I'm down here most every day. I love playing with him. I think he's one of kind."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sabalenka, Djokovic top the teams entered into U.S. Open mixed doubles championship

BRIAN MAHONEY NEW YORK

Top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka and 24-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic headline the initial list of 16 teams entered into the U.S. Open mixed doubles championship.

The tournament was overhauled last year, with a US$1-million prize going to the winners, in an effort to get top singles players to compete. Many of those types of stars were listed among the teams announced Monday by the U.S. Tennis Association.

Iga Swiatek and Casper Ruud, the runners-up in 2025, are entered again, along with Elena Rybakina and Taylor Fritz, the Japanese duo of Naomi Osaka and Kei Nishikori, and Jessica Pegula and Jack Draper.

The main draw will be played over two days on Aug. 25-26, with all the matches set to be held in Arthur Ashe Stadium and Louis Armstrong Stadium, the two biggest venues at the U.S. Open, and televised on ESPN's properties.

Teams can enter up until Aug. 17, when the six duos with the best combined singles rankings at the time will be automatically entered into the main draw. That means Sabalenka, the two-time defending U.S. Open women's champion, and Djokovic, still ranked No. 5 on the men's tour at the of age 39, will be safely into the field.

Eight teams will be given wild cards by the USTA, and two other teams will play their way into the field through a qualifying tournament to be held Aug. 24.

The remainder of the teams that were entered as of Monday:

Mirra Andreeva and Andrey Rublev; Belinda Bencic and Flavio Cobolli; Diana Shnaider and Daniil Medvedev; Amanda Anisimova and Learner Tien; Alex Eala and Canada's Félix Auger-Aliassime; Canada's Leylah Fernandez and Frances Tiafoe; Taylor Townsend and Alexander Zverev; Elena-Gabriela Ruse and Nuno Borges; Sara Errani and Andrea Vavassori; Katerina Siniakova and Henry Patten, and siblings Peyton Stearns and Preston Stearns.

Errani and Vavassori are the two-time defending U.S. Open champions. The Italians needed a wild card to get into last year's event because their singles ranking was too low, and that will be the case again this year.

The U.S. Open was initially criticized last year because the format of the event shut out doubles specialists such as Errani and Vavassori, but the tournament certainly seemed a success, helping draw 78,000 fans to the grounds and selling out Ashe both days.

"Any time you can bring women and men together on the same team, you showcase tennis at its best. This is exactly what the mixed doubles championship does," USTA CEO Craig Tiley said in a statement.

"The mixed doubles championship is an innovation that will engage new audiences and give our fans another opportunity to see the biggest stars compete together."

Errani and Vavassori were the only traditional doubles team in last year's tournament. There is a chance for more this year – Siniakova and Patten are doubles specialists – with the addition of the eight-team qualifying tournament, which will include six direct entries and two wild cards.

The format will be best-of-three-set matches with sets to four games, tiebreakers at four-all and a 10-point match tiebreak instead of a third set, through the semi-finals. The final will be standard scoring with sets to six games and a tiebreaker at six-all, and a 10-point match tiebreaker if necessary.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FERNANDEZ BESTS LINETTE TO ADVANCE TO SECOND ROUND AT D.C. OPEN

Canada's Leylah Fernandez opened her title defence with a first-round victory at the D.C. Open on Monday.

Fernandez, the tournament's seventh seed, downed Poland's Magda Linette 6-1, 6-4, winning the match in one hour 19 minutes.

The 23-year-old from Laval, Que., captured the title at the WTA 500 hard-court event last year for the biggest tournament win of her career.

"There's definitely some nerves, a little bit of pressure, because you're a defending champ," she said after defeating Linette. "You can't really escape that word 'defending champ' because it's kind of everywhere. You see your name in the stadium beside [2025 ATP winner] Alex de Minaur, so it's like you can't escape it."

Fernandez ranks 34th in the world but has struggled to find a rhythm this year, posting a 13-19 record in singles.

On Monday, she hit two aces and converted five of nine break-point opportunities. Linette, meanwhile, capitalized on just one of three.

"It's tough when the beginning of the season doesn't go the way that you want it to go," Fernandez said ahead of the tournament. "But I try to kind of take it day by day and enjoy the process, the hard work, the hours on court, trying to find the positives in things.

"I definitely think back on those memories, on those feelings, the positive feelings, the fight, the energy that the crowd brought. So I try to use that to my advantage and try to go back into that state, and hopefully I can reproduce that here."

Fernandez will face the winner of Tuesday's match between Alexandra Eala of the Philippines and Zheng Qinwen in the round of 16.

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DEATHS

LLOYD DAVID LAVINE

Lloyd David Lavine, born January 11, 1933, in Toronto, Ontario, passed away peacefully on July 23, 2026.

He was predeceased by his parents, Lillian and Maurice Lavine; his son, Joel; and his second wife, Julia.

Lloyd grew up in Toronto and attended Forest Hill Collegiate, where he met Tema Bernstein (now Title), with whom he raised three children. A graduate of the University of Toronto with a Bachelor of Commerce, Lloyd built a successful career as a Chartered Accountant. Earlier in his career, he worked in the investment and mortgage business, serving as a managing partner and enjoying what he fondly called "wheeling and dealing" to strengthen his clients' portfolios. In his final working years, Lloyd was a partner at Price Waterhouse, where he also became a Fellow Chartered Accountant (FCA).

Lloyd is survived by his daughters, Mona (Rocco) and Susan (Bruce); his brother, Alan (Carol); and his four beloved grandchildren, Drew (Rebecca), Morgan (Jane), Griffin (Deryn), and Madison, of whom he was immensely proud. Known to them as "Zaidie," he was a loving and generous father and grandfather.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to Lloyd's devoted caregivers Clarita Egar, Florence Soliven, and Ryan Egar for their compassionate care.

At Benjamin's Park Memorial Chapel, 2401 Steeles Avenue West (3 lights west of Dufferin) for service on Sunday, August 2nd at 10:00 a.m. Interment to follow at Holy Blossom Memorial Park.

Memorial donations may be made to the charity of your choice.

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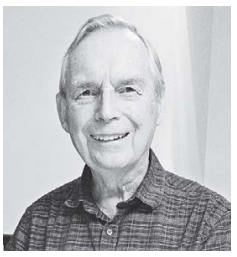
DEATHS



ROBERT EDWIN WIFFEN
1934 – 2026

Just shy of his 92nd birthday, and with the love of his life, Amy, holding his hand, Bob passed away peacefully, at Waterloo Hospice on Thursday, July 23, 2026. Bob's story is, above all, a love story. He and Amy met at East York High School in 1949, marking the beginning of a magnificent 77-year partnership and 69 years of marriage. Together, they were the perfect example of unity, devotion, and mutual respect. He was a proud and deeply loved dad to David (Marci), Ward, and Diana (Bob); and a cherished grandfather to Zack. Born in Toronto to Edwin and Amy Wiffen, Bob went on to build a long and fulfilling 40-year career with IBM. He took great pride in his work and was quietly recognized year after year for his exceptional dedication, consistently earning the company's highest internal honours for performance. In 1973, his career moved the family to Waterloo, where he and Amy were instantly welcomed into a wonderful circle of neighbours and friends. Those initial introductions blossomed into deep, lifelong friendships that spanned over five decades. Bob was a naturally popular guy, drawing people in with his exceptionally kind heart, sharp intelligence, and brilliant sense of humour. He truly made an impact on everyone he met and believed deeply in showing up for his community. Whether he was singing bass in his barbershop quartet, serving on the board of the Community Justice Initiative, volunteering with Third Age Learning, or helping manage his condo board, Bob gave his time generously. He filled his life with the things he loved: playing tennis at the local club, capturing the world through photography, playing guitar, listening to music, and travelling. Bob follows his parents, Edwin and Amy; his siblings, Barbara, Lewis (Laura), and Joan; Amy's parents, Hikoemon and Masue; her siblings, Takako (Tats), Jimmy (Yaye), Keigi (Barbara), and Aki; and Esther's husband, Tom. He will be fondly remembered and missed by Barb's husband, Uwe; Aki's wife, June; Amy's sister, Esther; a large, loving extended family and countless friends. Our family extends our heartfelt gratitude to the incredible, compassionate teams at St. Mary's Hospital, Grand River Hospital, and the Hospice of Waterloo Region for taking such wonderful care of Bob in his final days.

In lieu of flowers, we kindly request that donations be made in Bob's honour to the Hospice of Waterloo Region, the Waterloo Regional Health Network (WRHN), Momiji Health Care Society or the KW Symphony, and may be arranged through the funeral home at 519-745-8445 or at www.erbgood.com.

Details regarding a celebration of Bob's beautifully lived life will be shared in the coming weeks.

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GAIL BOWEN

NOVELIST, 83

AUTHOR USED MURDER-MYSTERY WRITING TO SPARK CHANGE

Author Gail Bowen received numerous accolades during her career. She won the Crime Writers of Canada Grand Master Award in 2018 and was invested with the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, the highest honour in the province, the same year. ROY ANTAL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Her storied career raised Saskatchewan's profile as she imbued her work with Prairies locales and used her craft to fight social injustice

MATTHEW FRANK

There was no mystery to the Regina murder case, but crime novelist Gail Bowen couldn't shake its grip on her work.

In 1983, JoAnn Wilson was found dead in her garage – blocks away from Ms. Bowen's home – after her ex-husband Colin Thatcher, then a member of the Saskatchewan provincial legislature, hired people to kill her as she tried to file for divorce. Mr. Thatcher was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison a year later.

Ms. Bowen was haunted by the case of a woman trying to get away from an abusive partner and would talk about it for years, as she frequently drove or walked past the garage.

That feeling sparked her pursuit of writing murder mysteries. She named the main character of her 23-book series, sleuthing political science professor Joanne Kilbourn, after Ms. Wilson.

The 83-year-old award-winning author died of cancer on June 25. Ms. Bowen's storied career raised Saskatchewan's profile, establishing the province as a compelling setting for crime fiction.

Ms. Bowen was born in 1942 in Toronto. She said she learned to read by looking at the tombstones in the city's Prospect Cemetery. She studied at the University of Toronto and received a bachelor of arts degree in 1964, later earning a master of arts degree from the University of Waterloo in 1975.

She pursued postgraduate studies at the University of Saskatchewan and after graduating in 1979, Ms. Bowen taught at the Universities of Regina and Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural College and the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College, now called First Nations University of Canada.

Ms. Bowen became an associate professor at that institution and headed its English department. Her debut book was a 1987 novella titled *1919: The Love Letters of George and Adelaide*, about fictional letters sent during the First World. But as she taught students and absorbed details about her community, Ms. Bowen ventured into the crime genre and wrote her first of many Joanne Kilbourn novels.

Released in 1990, *Deadly Appearances* describes the suspicious death of a Saskatchewan politician, mid-speech on a podium. His speech writer, middle-aged Joanne Kilbourn, is thrust into uncovering the culprit in the whodunnit.

Ms. Bowen's writing carries the echoes of her home. A footbridge in her neighbourhood would often feature in her novels. One book was set at Saskatoon's former Mendel Art Gallery. Throughout her books, the interconnected, small-town feeling of a Prairie city shone through in her characters.

Ms. Bowen was deeply offended by injustice and critical of power structures, rigorously researching racism, domestic abuse and gender inequality for her novels. She used the medium of mystery writing to raise awareness of social issues in the hopes that once people became concerned, change would happen.

Playwright and retired CBC producer Kelley Jo Burke, a neighbour and friend, remembers Ms. Bowen's family being fixtures as she balanced her home life with work and writing. She was passionate about exposing hard truths that lingered in their community, Ms. Burke said.

"Gail saw how cruel the world that looks nice and friendly, with green lawns and tidy gardens, can be, and she channelled that anxiety into a tremendous energy for writing these books," she said.

Ms. Bowen received numerous accolades. She won the Crime Writers of Canada Grand Master Award in 2018. And she was invested with the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, the highest honour in the province, the same year. Her novels have been translated into six languages and widely distributed internationally.

The author routinely refuted suggestions of parallels between her life and that of her sleuthing heroine. In a 2000 profile in The Globe and Mail, she said, "I caution my students not to confuse me with her."

But in fiction and reality, both were academics, mothers, afraid of flying and had a granddaughter named Madeleine.

Starting in 2000, Ms. Bowen's first six novels were adapted for the small screen and broadcasted on Canadian television, something Ms. Bowen was ambivalent about at the time. While calling the adaptations "very lucrative and very flattering," she took issue with the setting being moved from Regina to Ontario, and with the lack of Indigenous representation in the made-for-TV movies.

She told The Globe and Mail then that she was "still pushing" for Indigenous characters in the series. "I've worked among Aboriginal peoples for 25 years," she said. "I portray [them in my books] as ordinary people, cops, nurses, businessmen. That's not a face you ever see in the media."

Despite her misgivings, she still encouraged other authors to pursue television, including *Murdoch Mysteries* author Maureen Jennings.

The two writers met as members of Crime Writers of Canada, a professional association for authors of the genre.

When negotiations were under way on a potential small-screen deal for Ms. Jennings's novels, she sought advice from Ms. Bowen, whom she credits as saving the *Murdoch Mysteries* show from falling through.

Ms. Bowen pushed Ms. Jennings to call the production studio and accept a deal. That call set off a chain reaction for the creation of the long-running CBC crime drama, which marked 19 consecutive seasons this year.

"She was very supportive of other writers. Absolutely, her voice was so strong. She was so concerned that she didn't want me to lose this possibility," Ms. Jennings said.

She views Ms. Bowen's work as crucial to changing attitudes toward Canadian crime writing, which many saw as the "poor cousin of literature." Ms. Bowen often advocated for authors of the genre to be better respected for their work, Ms. Jennings said.

Ms. Bowen was generous with her time for up-and-coming authors who were tackling the genre, always willing to stop and engage in conversations. She loved connecting with people and her community, and her books were a vehicle for that.

She enjoyed stints as a writer-in-residence at the Toronto Reference Library, Calgary's Memorial Park Library and the Regina Public Library.

One of the authors who sought her mentorship was crime writer Anthony Bidulka, who also focused his stories around Saskatchewan.

He said Ms. Bowen made his impossible dream of writing about his home province possible, because her work showed that someone from Saskatchewan could set a novel's location there while still being successful.

The two writers would often visit each other's book launches and fundraisers, as Mr. Bidulka soaked up everything he could from her.

Among the lessons Ms. Bowen imparted that stuck with him the most was the way she would allow time to pass for characters between each novel in her series, an approach he's emulated in his own writing.

Joanne Kilbourn aged alongside her creator throughout the run of the series. While each novel was centred around a mystery, plotting out the crimes wasn't Ms. Bowen's favourite part of the process. She liked writing about people best.

She sought to parse out a character's motivations and layer them with social nuances, such as living with a disability or dealing with issues faced by Indigenous people in Saskatchewan.

"I stand on the shoulders of Gail Bowen. She really established the Prairies as a place where, you know, a sophisticated, character-driven mystery can really thrive, and it can have national appeal," Mr. Bidulka said.

Along with her novels, Ms. Bowen loved the theatre and wrote both stage and audio dramas. She penned *Dancing in Poppies*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Tree* and an adaptation of *Peter Pan*, which were performed at the Globe Theatre in Regina.

A side character from her mystery series, radio announcer Charlie D, was the inspiration for a CBC audio drama. Ms. Bowen would later return to CBC Radio as a frequent political guest and arts columnist.

Ms. Bowen continued writing as her health declined, finishing her 24th and final Joanne Kilbourn book, titled *Homecoming*, in the months before her death. The book will be published posthumously.

She leaves behind her husband, Ted; their children, Hildy, Max and Nathaniel; their spouses, Brett, Carrie and Willow; and her grandchildren, Kai (Britt), Madeleine (Masan), Lena (Mason), Chesney, Ben, Peyton, Lexi, Val, Daxx, Drake and Lynx.

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